FRIDAY 7 MARCH 1997

WEATHER: Mainly fine; drizzle in the north

(IR45P) 40p

THE TABLOID Paloma Picasso comes hither



THE TABLOID Music: nine pages of pop and classical



COMMENT Suzanne Moore: bad boys on the box PAGE 19



Human cloning in two years

Charles Arthui Science Editor

Human clones could in principle be created in less than two years, the sci-entist who led the team which produced Dolly, the cloned sheep, said yesterday.

News of the breathrough in technology, revealed just 11 days ago, has given fresh hope to those hoping for a form of immortality through "cryonics" - the freezing of tissues at death.

However, any such attempts seem likely to meet a wall of intense public hostility, according to an exclusive Har-ris poll for *The Independent* which finds that 72 per cent of the public think that such work "should never be allowed, and all research into it should be stopped." Another 19 per cent thought the research should be allowed to continue, under strict controls, with a decision taken later. Only 4 per cent think that such cloning should be allowed when it becomes possible.

That majority view was echoed by Dr Ian Wilmut, of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, where Dolly was revealed to the world last month. He told with human embryos offensive. We would support wholeheartedly the idea of prohibition in the most effec-

tive possible way." But he said there was no reason why the technique could not be applied to humans by sufficiently determined researchers. Tve hesitated to make predictions, but I'm sure if you really wanted to do it, you could do it," he added. Dr Wilmut was giving evidence to a hastily called session of the crossparty Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology to inves-

Supporters of cryogenics have for years hoped that by freezing their bodies at the point of death they could survive long enough for the technology to develop so they could be revived. A number of US companies offer "freeze storage" on that basis. In principle, it might be possible to find a suitable cell from which to clone the dead person. A Norwegian man, Trygve Bauve, has become one of the first to say that his frozen grandfather, Bredo Morstol, could be brought back to life by cloning. The body has been kept covered in frozen carbon dioxide in a shed in Boulder County since 1994.

The Independent poli found that 54 per cent of people would support doctors being able to use generic manipulation on test-tube babies to prevent them having serious inherited dis-eases and disabilities. Only 35 per cent opposed the idea. But 77 per cent oppose using such techniques to choose the sex of a test-tube baby, with just 15 per cent in favour.

Professor Graham Bulfield, directhat he could see in extremis circumstances where someone somewhere in the world might attempt human cloning. But Dr Wilmut said its suggested applications made no sense The idea that you can bring back a child, that you can bring back your father, it is simply nonsensical. You can make a genetically identical copy, but you can't get back the person you have lost." That may put the cryogenic lobby's enthusiasm back on ice.



Box beckons for sweet talkers

and John Rentoul

debates between leading politicians, including John Major and Tony Blair, is being talked up by Tory sources at Westminster.

One Cabinet source said he looked forward with "relish" to a clash of the leaders, but also to live debates between ministers and their Labour shadows: with Michael Heseltine pitted against John Prescott; Kenneth Clarke up against Gordon Brown and Malcolm Rifkind versus

Robin Cook. Mr Blair has indicat- that 62 per cent of Labour voters say terview on BBC television's Newsjor in any setting. Close colleagues lose by picking up the Labour leader's gauntlet.

One broadcaster said yesterday that the man with the biggest problem could be Mr Blair. "Being so far ahead in the polls, would he want to

risk it?" he asked. That point was underlined by today's first pre-election Harris poll for The Independent: it gives Labour a 21-point lead over the Conservatives.

ed that he would debate with Mr Ma- they will "certainly" vote Labour. while only 50 per cent of those who The prospect of a television-led of the Prime Minister say that giv- intend to vote Tory say they will

But head-to-head debates can be volatile. Harold Wilson said after his debate challenge had been rejected by Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the in-cumbent Prime Minister, in 1964, that he had been glad because a fit of hiccups could have lost it for him.

The Conservatives will insist on a strong invigilator, and, if there is an audience or questions from viewers and listeners, careful vetting of The lead is bolstered by the finding participants. Mr Major said in an in-

night on Wednesday that he anticipared fighting a high-profile "personal" campaign on the policy

But Tory sources believe the depth and breadth of Mr Major's knowledge would "shine through" in televised confrontations with the "very inexperienced" Mr Blair and Mr

The most significant question that remains to be settled is broadcasting "balance", and the requirement to provide Mr Ashdown with a role in

Labour chief in perks row quits

Westminster Correspondent

Two leading councillors in Doncaster have resigned following allegations that they took unau-thorised trips abroad and had drunken "working" lunches on

council taxpayers' money. Doncaster Council leader. councillor Peter Welsh, and his deputy, Ray Stockhill, have stood down in the wake of a damning District Auditor's re-port published last month. The Independent revealed ex-

clusively three weeks ago that the report raised doubts about the legality of trips abroad taken by a number of councillors and it criticised the council for poor financial control. The council has withdrawn credit cards from all councillors and all but six council officers and has banned all trips to conferences, both domestic and abroad.

The councillors were under pressure from Labour Party HQ to stand down after the issue embarrassed the Labour leader, Tony Blair, who had been advised of the problems a year ago. Mr Welsh and another leading councillor, Tony Sel-lars, also failed to be shortlisted for the local vacant Don Valley seat after the revelations became public. Mr Sellars, who is deputy mayor recently decided not to stand as mayor because of the District Auditor's report.

Yesterday, Mr Welsh acknowledged the embarrassment careful consideration I have decided to step down as leader of Doncaster Council. Allegations have been made which I need to clear up, and out of respect to the Labour Group and my colleagues, I feel at this time this is the only action I can take. he said in a statement.

Both men are to continue in their position of ward council-Independent poll, page 8 | lors on the council.

Damning E.coli report held back

Steve Boggan and Charles Arthur

A watered-down version of a damning meat hygiene report which the Govemment claims was not suppressed was held back from a group of experts who wrote the original.

Three of the seven experts, whose report into Britain's abartous made grave warnings about E. coli poisoning, told The Independent yesterday that a fresh version-removing all mention of E. coli was never shown to them.

The original report, scheduled for publication in March last year, would have severely embarrassed the Government, coming just as Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, announced a link between BSE and its human counterpart CID. Since then, 21 people have died in E. coll outbreaks in Scotland and England.

The revelations came on a day when ministers faced widespread criticism over omblic health standards. As the Prime Minister and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, yesterday sought to re-assure Parliament that they did not suppress the abattor report, it was disclosed that almost 100 people in the South-east had fallen ill from drinking contaminated water and the British Medical Association had warned of a return to Victorian standards

of public health. Mr Hogg was forced to make a statement in the Commons following claims by Professor Bill Swann, deputy chief vet-erinary officer for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. that a report on standards in British abattoirs, compiled for the Ministry of Agriculture's Meat Hygiene Service (MHS),

was suppressed.
Among those who said they, too, were kept in the dark over the report was Pro-

fessor Hugh Pennington, head of the team investigating the *E. coli* outbreak ommended introducing a national policy on contamination of abattoirs by which has killed 18 people in Central livestock and was submitted to the Scotland. He said he was "angry" that he had not been told about it. Also left off its circulation list were the independent Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac), which ad-

vises the Government on BSE, and the National Farmers' Union.

The original report into a £1m audit of over 400 slaughterhouses was edited by Professor Swann while be head of the standard of by Professor Swann while he headed an audit team for the MHS. It expressed concern over the slaughtering of animals whose hides and fleeces were contamiof other hygiene concerns, which were edited down in the final version.

The original report said: "Organisms such as Escherichia coli 0157 and salmonella can be introduced into the plant on the skins of dirty livestock." It rec-

icy on contamination of abattoirs by MHS in December 1995. Professor Swann said it was to have been published in March 1996 but he was put under pressure to water down its findings and it finally appeared in an edited form, and

But Professor Swann said: "I wasn't made aware of this final version until today. ... I am furious that MAFF should have put out in an edited version with nated with faeces and highlighted a raft my name on it without my consent. 1 would not have given that consent." Two of the experts contacted by The Independent were also not sent the final

Further reports, page 5 | ecution 5 | Leader, page 17 | yesterday.

Euro-tax body

Ideas for a European fiscal citizenship leading to the establishment of a European tax authority are to discussed at a high-level meeting on tax reform next week Page 14

School tables alert

Parents are today receiving written "health warnings" from head teachers urging them to treat pri-mary-school league tables published for the first time next week for 11-year-olds with extreme caution Page 10

Football trial replay Football stars Bruce Grobbe laar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers are to be re-tried on charges that they corruptly conspired to fix Premier League football matches for a Far Eastern syndicate, the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed

The oil painting is 60cm by 45cm large and had been insured for \$1m.

The insurers have offered £50,000 re-

ward. It had been recently bought by

the gallery. Previously it had been owned by the Picasso family collection.

said the painting was "impossible" to

sell on the open market because it was

Roy Miles, suggested that it may

ed a Picasso and will now hide it away

have been stolen to order.

so well known.

Mark Dalrymple, the loss adjuster,

The owner of a nearby art gallery,

"Obviously, a private buyer want-

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Pony-tailed thief takes Picasso for ride



n Picasso: "Tête de Feme"

lason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A man brandishing a sawn-off shotgun took less than a minute to steal a Picasso painting worth about £600,000 from a commercial gallery in the centre of London vesterday before hijacking a taxi and escaping. Gallery staff chased the robber, who was described as looking like an "art student", but he threatened them with

Art experts believe the painting, named Tête De Fenme, an impres-sionistic portrait painted in 1939 by

Dora Maar, may have been stolen to it himself, so he did and then he ran order. But it is probably unsaleable. The raid took place at about 11am vhen the man, who made no effort to hide his face and was captured on the

shop's surveillance camera, strolled into the Lefevre Galley, Bruton Street. Jacquie Cartwright, a sales assistant, said: "He looked like an art student with long hair in a pony-tail. He asked the price of the painting and I answered bim

Then he told me he had a shotgun and he wanted the picture.

"I said I beg your pardon". "He said 'Get it off the wall for me'. Pablo Picasso of his then mistress and I said I couldn't. I told him to get picture at random," he said.

Members of staff followed the ficeing man who had a taxi waiting near-

by. The thief pointed his shotgun out of the cab window before ordering the unwitting driver to take him to Wimbledon in south-west London. The taxi driver, who was left a £10 tip and the picture frame on the back seat, contacted the police after drop-

ping off his passenger. Martin Summers, the managing director of the gallery, said the gumman took only 35 seconds to carry out the raid, "It didn't seem that he took the

and enjoy it privately, unless the police find him," he said.

THE TABLOID Leading Articles17

THE BROADSHEET Business & City20-24



















Express train derailed near Devon station

A full-scale emergency operation was faunched fast night after a rush-hour high-speed train came off the rails near Newton Abbott station in Devon. Early reports could not clarify how many people on the train - Great Western's 15.35pm service from London Paddington to Penzance - were injured. It was thought the train

had been travelling at low speed at the time of the incident.

The derailment occurred at the height of the rush-hour shortly before 7pm. A Devon police spokesman said all available rescue services were heading for the scene. "We don't yet know how many" people were on board or if there are any injuries, but we have drafted in emergency services from neighbouring areas to assist. As far as we know the whole train has come off the rails somewhere on the Teignmouth side of Newton Abbott, "he said, Delays were expected while the track was cleared.

Lib Dems launch green guarantee

The Liberal Democrats yesterday unveiled their green programme to cut pollution, save energy and protect wildlife habitats. The party prides itself on being the most environmentally friendly of the three main parties. Matthew Taylor, the party's environment spokesman, launched Our Green Guarantee, and declared that it set the green agenda for the 21st century.

The guarantee sets out 10 key priorities: Cutting VAT and

employers' national insurance contributions and introducing a new carbon tax: cutting road tax from £145 to £10 on cars with smaller engines: introducing a major energy conservation programme targeted on low-income and high-need households: reforming the Common Agricultural Policy:scrapping the Common Fisheries Policy and replacing it with a Europe-wide system of regional fisheriestimproving the rail network and setting new targets for reducing pollution and waste.

Jerry Lewis on West End stage



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The American comedian Jerry Lewis will be the latest Hollywood star to make a late debut on the West End stage. Lewis, 70, (left) will head the all-American cast of Damn Yankees at the Adelphi Theatre from June. He has already had a hit with the classic musical on Broadway and an American tour. Lewis will join Gene Wilder and Jessica Lange, who are already starring in West End productions. From the world

of television. Northern Exposure's Rob Morrow is appearing in Birdy. Lewis, who has acted, directed, written and produced more than 60 films, became a legend in partnership with Dean Martin, but they split in acrimony

Peugeot unions call overtime ban

Union leaders yesterday called an overtime ban at the Peugeot car plant in Coventry to be followed by an all-out strike unless management settles a pay claim and withdraws plans for longer shifts. Members of the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union will refuse to work overtime from next week Friday and walk out on indefinite

The decision to delay the start of disruption allows breathing space for negotiations. At Iveco Ford workers have voted to fight the closure of the plant at Slough. Berkshire. Barrie Clement

Two remanded on rape charges

Two men were remanded in custody for a week yesterday accused of raping a girl under the age of 16. John Hammond, 71, and Richard Mulryne, 28, both from Portsmouth, Hampshire, face charges of raping the same girl. Mr Hammond is alleged to have carried out the assault between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1996, while Mr Mulryne is alleged to have raped the girl between 1 January 1994 and a March 1997.

They were remanded in custody by Portsmouth magistrates until 13 March. Both men were arrested during dawn raids by Hampshire Police on Wednesday when 11 people were taken into custody after a major investigation into alleged child abuse.

Obsessed teenager hanged himself A teenager who became obsessed by the death of the rock star-Kuri Cohain and was "brain-washed" by his lyrics hanged himself

in his mother's spare bedroom, an inquest was told yesterday. Nicholas Povey. 17, idolised the lead singer of Nirvana who shot himself in April 1994. Nicholas left behind a folder in which he had scribbled lyries written by the band.

His mother. Lynette Griffiths, told the inquest at Portsmouth. Hampshire that her son had become brain-washed by Cobain's death. In a statement read to the hearing she said Nicholas "idolised" the rock star and said had no other reason to kill himself. His body was found by his step-father at their home in Portsmouth. on 12 January. The coroner James Kenroy, recorded a verdict of suicide, saying: "Clearly he had come under the influence of this particular rock star. It seemed from his writings that he had almost an obsession with his music and lyries and he clearly had idolised him, tragically where he wished to follow his idol even into death."

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Bardot in the doghouse for wishing her son was a puppy

rigitte Bardot and her publisher have been ordered to pay £28,000 in damages for hurtful remarks about her core marks about her son and ex-husband in her

best-selling autobiography.

A French court rejected their demand that the offending chapters – including a reference to her unborn son as a "cancerous tumour" – should be excised from future editions. Instead, the court ordered that the book should carry a kind of legal health warning, labelling certain passages as an invasion of personal privacy. Jacques Charrier and his son, Nicolas, now 36, had claimed damages of more than £1m for the 80-odd pages about them in the worldwide best-seller, *Initials BB*, published last year. Ms Bardot and her publisher, Grasset, have been ordered to pay £17,000 to Mr Charrier, her second husband, and £11,000 to her son.

The retired actress, 62, now best known for her support for animal causes and the far-right Front National, is estimated to have earned at least £3m from the

prize-winning book. In it, she describes her horror at finding herself pregnant in 1959: "I looked at my flat, slender belly in the mirror like a dear friend upon whom I was about to close a coffin lid."

She revealed that, in an attempt to abort the child; she had repeatedly punched herself in the stomach and asked her doctor for morphine

Lawyers acting for her son, now living in Oslo, also complained that he had been deeply wounded by her remarks at a press conference, when she said she would have "preferred to give birth to a little dog".

Mr Charrier senior complained of her balefully de-tailed account of their brief and disastrous marriage. Ms Bardot described him, inter alia, as a failed singer and actor who drowned his professional disappointments in drink and back-biting.

Despite her own initial rejection of her baby, stre also complained that Mr Charrier had deprived her of accass to her son for "trivial" (literally, in the French, "penis-nibbling*) reasons.

Her lawyers had told the court that Ms Bardot's book had violated no-one's privacy but her own. As "the most famous Frenchwoman in the world", Ms Bardot had the right to speak frankly of her own life. They also argued that the remarks about her son could not be an invasion of his private life because, at the time, John Lichfield, Paris he was only a foetus.

Attlee was really a Tory, says his daughter-in-law

Clement Attiee (right), the Labour victory in 1945 toppled Winston Churchill, whose reforms estab-lished the Welfare State and who is a political hero of Tony Blair. was secretly a Tory, his daughterin-law said vesterday. Margaret, Countess Attiee. whose

stepson this week announced his intention to transfer allegiance from the cross-benches in the Lords and join the Conservative peers, added that her late husband, the second Earl Attlee had discussed with Tory whips his desire to cross the floor in the days just before his death. Indeed, the second Earl had never taken the Labour whip in the Lords when he succeeded the title after the death

of his father in 1967. "I find it of interest that his son, the third Earl, has also committed himself by pledging his allegiance to the Tories," she said. "But I have always believed that Clement was a Conservative with a conscience. He was not a tremendous left-winger and that was the family



But the late prime minister's politics were always at odds with his family, said his cousin, Helen Rogers: "He was known as Bolshie Clem in the family. It was seen as rather amusing that he became a Labour MP," she said.

"The rest of the family voted Tory and it was quite a surprise that Clem went the other way." Some members of the family refused to speak to Attlee when he

first joined the Labour Party. Mrs Rogers' mother, Hilda Attiee, apparently said: "I won't have that man in my house again." But once he was prime minister she held a party in his honour.

Whitelaw fined over road crash

The former deputy prime minister and home secretary, Lord Whitelaw, was fined £75 for careless driving yesterday after a court heard his Range Rover was involved in an accident that left three elderly people injured.

Lord Whitelaw, 78, entered a

guilty plea to driving without due care and attention before magistrates in Wigton, Cumbria. The court heard that Lord Whitelaw, of Ennim, near Penrith, Cumbria, was on his way home from playing golf when he pulled out at a crossroads on the A595 near Wigton into the

path of a BMW.

The BMW rolled over in the accident. The driver, retired Ronald Weightman, his wife Margaret and friend Marjorie Bell, were returning home from a shopping trip, Mrs Weightman was the most seriously

injured, with a broken breast bone. Lord Whitelaw, who was not in court, was also ordered to pay £40 costs and had four penalty points

imposed on his licence. He was said to have told police that he had waited some time at the crossroads but it was very difficult to see very far down the road because the sun was so low.

briefing

MEDICINE

Antibiotics make little difference to a sore throat

Prescribing antibiotics for sore throats makes little difference to how quickly they disappear, according to a paper in the British Medical Journal, published today. A total of 716 "sore throat patients were divided into three groups; the first was given a 10-day prescription for antibiotics; the second was given nothing; and the third group was given a prescription if the symptoms did not start

third group was given a prescription if the symplectic settle after three days.

The proportion of patients better by day three did not differ significantly between the three groups, nor did the length of their illness, days off work or school, or the (high) proportion of patients satisfied. More than two thirds of patients in group three did not

The authors of the study, at Southampton University's Faculty of Medicine, conclude that unless patients with sore throats are very ill, doctors should avoid prescribing antibiotics - or offer Annabel Ferriman antibiotics only if symptoms persist.

TRANSPORT

Tunnel traffic recovers from fire

Channel Tunnel shuttle trains are now carrying nearly as many vehicles as they did before the massive underground fire,

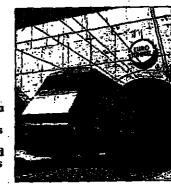
Eurotannel amounced yesterday.

Le Shuttle carried nearly 124,000 vehicles last month, more than 40,000 more than in January and 5.5 per cent more than in February 1996. Despite reduced capacity, Le Shuttle has now recovered 80 per cent of the market share it achieved Jast October the market share it achieved Jast October the month before the fire.

The number of passengers using the London to Paris and Brussels Eurostar trains through the tunnel also rose last month. Eurostar carried nearly

392,000 passengers in February compared with just over 299,000 in the same month last year. Through-freight trains using the tunnel carried 218,238 tonnes last month

compared with 190,078 tonnes in February 1996. The Le Shuttle freight train service is still to restart after the fire. Eurotunnel i currently carrying out repair work in the dam section of tunnel and bopes to be running to full capacity by June.



HEALTH

Mammograms pose suicide risk

A positive result from a mammogram - an X-ray to screen women for breast cancer - might on two occasions have resulted in suicide, says a letter in today's British Medical Journal.

Two Birmingham Health Authority doctors examined local coroners' records between 1992-95. They found that two women had committed suicide between receiving notification of recall after mammography and reattending. Neither women had attempted suicide previously, but both had had a child who had died of (nonbreast) cancer.

The first woman, who was awaiting follow-up treatment after a mastectomy, wrote her suicide note on a hospital letter and gave no other reason. The second woman had a history of depression and alcohol problems and had an appointment for investigation of a suspected lump. She left a suicide note mentioning her fear of admission to hospital.

BROADCASTING

Listeners still deserting Radio 1

Radio 1 lost 135,000 listeners in January, the mouth when its star disc jockey Chris Evans left the breakfast show. Leaked audience figures also show that those tuning in to the station listened for 10 per cept less time than in the last quarter of 1996.

Listeners had already started to drift away from the station

before Evans even left. Radio 1 had lost 600,000 of its LLm listeners in final quarter of 1996, the last period that the official Rajar figures cover. Meanwhile, Radio 5 Live has hired Richard Littlejohn, the

outspoken columnist and broadcaster, as a replacement for presenter Danny Baker who was sacked on Wednesday for insulting listeners. Paul McCann

Women suffer real-terms pay cut

Some of the lowest-paid workers in the country - all women - have suffered a wage cut of up to £5 a week over the past year, according to a report published today. The worst-paid childcare assistant earned £115 a week last year, compared to £120 12 months earlier, while hairdressers and cleaners saw their pay dip below £100, a cut of over £4.

The Low Pay Unit, which compiled the report using figures from the Government's New Earnings Survey, called for sweeping changes to pay legislation to help women achieve genuine wage equality.

Pay had deteriorated rapidly since 1993, when the Government abolished Wages Councils, said the unit.



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Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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Kate Watson-Smyth

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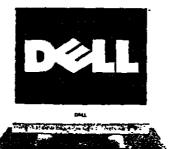
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Sadler's Wells falls first victim to Budget changes which let Treasury snatch millions of pounds in grants

Arts to lose lottery cash to taxman

Sporting and arts establishments recieving huge lottery grants have been caught up in a Budget change which may leave them losing millions of pounds in tax benefits."

A reduction in tax allowances announced in the Budget means that hard-earned fonds risk being snatched back by the

London's Sadier's Wells is the first to fall victim to the Budget plan, which is intended primarily to change the tax bene-fit given to long-term industrial investment projects - like pow-

A £40m redevelopment pro-ject for the London theatre has already received £30m in lottery funds.

With the active encouragement of the Department of National Heritage, the theatre has so far raised almost £5m in. cash donations and pledges, and it had been hoping to raise guarantees for the rest of the cash through a leaseback deal with a bank.

However, the Budget change has made the Sadler's Wells deal considerably less attractive because money raised through leaseback is now classed as taxable income, leaving the theatre short of its immediate

Ian Albery, chief executive of Sadler's Wells, told The Independent: "It's a bloody business, and makes things twice as hard

"In essence, the security may only be partially realised, and it

project, on schedule, in Octo-ber 1998."

exclude investment in machinery and equipment used in homes, shops, showrooms, howith private backers, the Trea-tels and offices, and shipping sury was actively engaged in set-and railway assets were also ex-ting up a tax deterrent.

But he warned: "Unless the exclusion includes arts projects funded by the lottery, a number of current and future

6 It is a classic case of one hand in Whitehall not knowing what the other hand is doing 9

plans may be placed in serious

jeopardy.
The additional revenue forgone by extending the exclusion to arts venues would be a fraction of the costs already forecast, and for which it would be a grave disappointment to prejudice such worthy and popular developments."

However, an Inland Revcome spokesman said: "Theatres and sports redevelopment schemes are not treated any differently from any other business

leaves us on something of a One arts source complained difficult.

knife edge. But I'm not having strongly that it was a classic case sleepless nights, and we will win of one hand in Whitehall not through. We will complete the knowing what another hand

roject, on schedule, in Octo was doing. ir 1998." While Virginia Bottomley, An Arts Council source said Secretary of State for Nationthe Treasury aheady planned to al Heritage had been encouraging sport and the aris to develop "partnership finance" A spokeswoman for the De

partment of National Heritage When told that the Inland Revenue had said it would offer no prospect of relief, she re-peated twice: "This is a matter for the Treasury. We cannot

In a Treasury briefing note on the initial proposal, announced in November's Budget by Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, it was said that the tax penalty would apply "only to companies that invest heav-

ily in long-life assets".

But Treasury minister
Michael Jack has told Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, that he holds out no hope for relieving theatres from Mr Albery said that the

Sadler's Wells project was continuing, and that the show would go on. "Demolition is complete, the

excavations have been carried out, and the foundations are being laid. We have even drilled a 600-foot bore-well so that we can have our own water." Water out of stone is one thing; extracting tax relief from the Treasury is much more



Pyramid sellers: Sarah and Ermina, dancers from the Cairo Opera Ballet, at the Egyptian wing of the British Museum yesterday. The group is performing at the Riverside Studios, west London, until 28 March as part of a celebration of Egyptian culture. Marhaba Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Students granted dramatic support

Students who struggle to afford their place at dance or drama school are to benefit from a new scheme using lottery money, the Arts Council announced yes-

Independent drama and dance colleges will be able to apply on behalf of students for int government and lottery grants, to help fund the £7,000 year tuition fees.

Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, said the scheme was an interim measure designed to bridge the gap un-

til the Government can find a means of supporting training for these students. He warned it was not a perfect solution.

"I am delighted that the Government has now gone a considerable way towards acknowledging the anomaly in the funding of students of dance and drama as compared with music and the visual arts,"

This scheme is not perfect. as it still depends on the local authority giving out a discretionary grant, but now they will not have to pay out as much and

The number of discretionary grants awarded has fallen by 44 per cent since 1987, but under the new scheme, a student will only need a grant of £1,250 before the college can make up the

rest of the course fees. The scheme will run for four years. It will cover the full, two- and three-year courses for dance and drama students and two-year stage management

courses, beginning in autumn 1997 and 1998. Martin Brown, spokesman for Equity, said the organisation welcomed the scheme. "We

burden on dance and drama stu-scheme has merit," he said. dents but we look forward to a Nicholas Barter, principal of Rada, welcomed the anpermanent resolution to the problem of funding.

Grants for dance and drama should be mandatory," he Ivor Widdison, of the coun-

cil of local education authorities, said about 20 LEAs out of a total 140 had agreed in principle to the scheme. "The LEAs are in dire financial straits and their ability

to award discretionary grants

has fallen dramatically but we

acknowledge that something

nouncement but urged the Government to tackle the long-term problem: "We are delighted hat the Arts Council has come up with this scheme but there needs to be a proper solution." 'We are only asking for parity with music and arts students

who get mandatory grants." Simon Woods, general manager of Birmingham School of Speech and Drama, said they were delighted by the news. "It least it is something," he said.

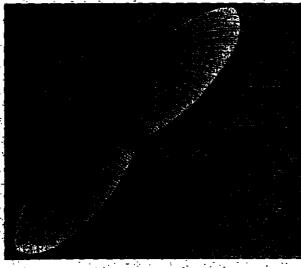
Hollow bones of flying reptile rewrite evolution

Science Editor

This 250 million-year-old skele-ton, of the first known flying vertebrate has made scientists reconsider their ideas on how

organisms can evolve. The skeleton, discovered in 1910 in a copper mine in central Germany, is of a reptile called Cochurosauranus jeekeli.
As well as walking, the animal could glide using a unique set of wings consisting of long, hollow bones that formed directly. in flaps of skin, and not as a modification of existing limb structures as is the case in modern-day birds, bats and flying

It pre-dated the first feath-ered animal, Archaeopterac, by almost 100 million years. Instead, the 30-centimetre Cocharosauranus could probably fly for tens of metres by opening out its "wings" like a Japanese fan, and taking off from a But scientists have been ton," says Hans-Dieter Sues of suitable high point - rather awazed by the way that the Royal Ontario Museum,



like modern flying geckos, of which it is an ancestor- and using its long tail for balance in the

bones grew. "Coelurosauravus is totally bizarre because in every other animal that flies, wing sup-

commenting on the find in to-day's edition of the journal Science. Bats and birds, for example, have wing bones which are converted forelimbs.

Robert Carroll, a vertebrate paleontologist at the McGill University of Montreal, said: We typically think of evolution as taking an existing structure and making some new function of it, but this animal has taken the capacity to produce bone and elaborated it in a completely unique way.

The skeleton was discovered by a German copper miner, who labelled it "Flying Reptile". Ironically, the paleontologist he sold it to found the shape so improbably that he reckoned it was two superimposed sets of bones - a fish's fins on top of a

It is only now that scientists have realised they were wrong. "This demonstrates how early flight, even if not active, flapping flight, was achieved by vertebrates," said Dr Carroll.



Opinionated young nurse gives a Queen her blessing would have waited - but there she was 21. Felix Pryor, manu-

Kate Watson-Smyth

Florence Nightingale, immortalised as the gentle Lady of the Lamp, was in fact a strongminded character who was not afraid to voice her opinions. In a letter written to a friend

after the young Queen Victoria had announced her engage-ment to Albert, Nightingale that said she was too young for marriage.
I wish she would have wait-

ed," she wrote in the eight-page letter of December 1840 to a Miss Strutt.

"We have been hearing a good deal lately of the virtues of the King Consort our beauteous Majesty has taken to herself - from one of the

grooms-in-waiting. "So well-bred, so handsome, so simple, even according to English notions, and though both of them are 'o'er young to marry yet it seems that she could not have chosen better. "I wish however that she

was a certain tender socrow at parting which betokened her to be really fond of him."

Coburg-Gotha, in 1840, when court.

scripts specialist for Phillips the auctioneers, said that Nightingale came from an af-Oneen Victoria married her fluent bourgeois family and cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe that she had been presented at fluent bourgeois family and



Florence Nightingale: 'Her family was very rich, while at

being faintly facetious," he said.
"She was a member of the upper classes and her family was very rich, while at the same time being advanced thinkers.

Coming from this very privileged background, she had been introduced to Queen Victoria. One doesn't often think of Florence Nightingale as being the equivalent of a deb." Elsewhere in the letter, Nightingale tells her friend of the refurbishment of Embley, in Hampshire, one of two family

"We are more and more leased with Embley, now it is finished, notwithstanding the usual number of unprecedented delays, made by Mr Pratt of Bond Street. Our fatted pig should be killed if you would but come and see us.

Both that letter and another written in 1881 will be auctioned at Phillips next Thursday

Watchdog clears Howard over £1m bribe claim

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

An allegation that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, received a bribe of £1m to ensure that there was an investigation of Mohamed Al Fayed's akeover of Harrods, has been

firmly rejected by a parliamentary investigation. But the report, published yesterday, of the investigation by Sir Gordon Downey, the Par-liamentary Commissioner for Standards, provides fascinating details of the battle and subseent reconciliation between Mr Fayed and his defeated op-ponent in the Harrods takeover battle, Tiny Rowland.

The allegation was made by Mr Fayed when he gave evidence to a parliamentary committee in November 1995 and Sir Gordon felt it was so serious that he launched an investigation.

Mr Faved alleged that after he and his brother acquired control of the House of Fraser in March 1985, two trade and industry sec-

(1

was a junior minister at the DTI, the Department did appoint inspectors to look into the

Mr Fayed then constructed an elaborate conspiracy theory around the fact that a distant cousin of Mr Howard, Harold Landy, had worked for Mr Rowland and was the supposed conduit for the cash. Mr Howard lived in a house above his means, Mr Fayed claimed, and why else would the Government's policy have changed other than through a bribe? To try to get concrete evi-dence for his claims, Mr Fayed

held a series of meetings at his Harrods HQ in 1994/5 with Mr Rowland, after the two had reconciled, which were secretly videotaped. In an edited version of the tapes sent to Sir Gordon, Mr Rowland is seen making some statements which on first reading might suggest that he is agreeing he paid a bribe. At one point, Mr Row-

Commission. However, in April all the supposed "evidence". He 1987, by which time Mr Howard says that the fuller version of the says that the fuller version of the videotapes, obtained with some difficulty from Mr Fayed, show that Mr Rowland rejects on numerous occasions suggestions from Mr Fayed that a bribe was paid to Mr Howard.

Sir Gordon also investigated Mr Howard's bank accounts dating from the start of the Eighties, and found nothing untoward. Sir Gordon explains the change in government pol-icy on the enquiry resulted partly from Lonrho lobbying, but was mainly instigated because of information. In any case, he said, Mr Howard's role in the change was no more than expected of a junior minister. Sir Gordon concludes: "I

have no reason to think that Mr Al Fayed is not telling the truth as he sees it. But in this case, at least, it is a version of the truth which appears to have been distorted by emotion."

Reports which reject comaints are not normally published but in this instance, Sir



A cross marked in the sand at Zeebrugge in Belgium marks the 10th anniversary of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster Photograph: Brian Harris



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Footballers to face retrial

Michael Streeter

Soccer stars Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers are to be re-tried on charges that they corruptly conspired to fix Premier League football match-es for a Far Eastern syndicate, the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed yesterday.

On Tuesday a jury at Win-chester Crown Court failed to reach a verdict on any of the charges against the trio and the fourth defendant, Heng Suan Lim, a Malaysian businessman, after nearly 11 hours of delib-

eration.
The Crown Prosecution Service, which had announced its intention to seek a re-trial immediately after the first jury was discharged, said the decision had been taken in consultation with law officers. Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, was among those consulted over whether a further trial

was in the public interest. A date has still to be set for the new trial, which will be on the same charges as the four faced in the seven-week case at

Mr Lim, former Aston Villa and Wimbledon striker Fashanu, 34, and former Wimbledon goalkeeper Segers, 35, alleges that between 1 February 1991 and 9 November 1994, they conspired to give and corruptly accept gifts of money to influence or attempt to influence the outcome of football matches.

A second count, against Mr Lim, Fashanu and former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper Grobbelaar, alleges a conspiracy in similar terms between 1 November 1992 and 9

November 1994.
Grobbelaar faces a separate charge that he corruptly accepted £2,000 from Christopher Vincent for improperly influencing or attempting to football match or matches.

All the defendants their innocence.

Grobbelaar's solicitor, David Hewitt, said: "We are extremely disappointed by the decision ... to pursue this case after a trial lasting seven weeks failed to produce a single verdict ... We cannot believe that it is in the Winchester. The first, against public interest to continue.

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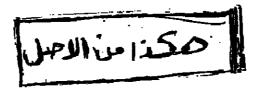


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Doctors warn of a return of past plagues

Public-health system slipping back into 19th century, BMA says

Armabel Ferriman

Britain is returning to the nineteenth century in terms of pubas dirty water, contaminated food and old infectious dis-eases re-emerging, the British Medical Association said yes-

Sandy Macara, the association's chairman, said: "We have shipped backwards. The publichealth legislation of the nine-

problems today in an affluent ociety. These lessons were acted on by governments long besuffrage. But now we have become careless.

We assume that these problems will not happen and if we added. get ill we can just pop along to our friendly GP, who will give us some ambiotics," he added

Although it suited both main

for most of the public, he said. time, the evidence has been The politicians would love health issues to go to sleep, beherent strategy for tackling

The association wants to seeboth parties promote health rather than tinker with the

It issued six challenges to all: political parties, demanding health legislation of the nine new targets for helping the distant ahead of other countries by adalead of the issues of contain problems of young people and developing environmental, bottom of the nine targets for helping the distance and transport policies. Any incoming government would have to tackle the ques-

tion of poverty and inequalities in health, he said. What concerns us is that the gap between rich and poor is demonstrably growing," he

Mac Armstrong, the associ-ation's secretary, said: "It is 20 some ambiotics," he added years ago this year that Sir Dr Macara was outlining the Douglas Black set up his com-BMA's manifesto for the gen- mittee to look at inequalities of outlining its election strategy, health. It demonstrated unequivocally that there was a link

the number one election issue a piece of dogma. Since that of the NHS; the lack of a de-

gathering. "The evidence that Professor lic health, with problems such cause they have not got a co-Michael Marmott has been gathering at University Colege London shows that even in the Civil Service, the gap has widened between rich and poor. By not tackling the preventable causes of ill-health, we are wasting resources.

"Look at the resources which went into tackling the E. coli outbreak in Scotland, which was entirely preventable. We forget, at our peril, that we are living in a hostile environment. This is a dynamic situation. There is no such thing as a conquered bug. You only have to look at the spread of MRSA multi-resistant staphylococcus aureus] and drug-resistant strains of ruberculosis to realise that. Doctors are fire-fighting all over the place, and that is a waste of resources," Dr Arm-

strong added. ■ The King's Fund, Britain's leading independent think-tank, yesterday, listed the four most important issues in health care

mogratic voice in the health service, and community care.

Ken Judge, director of the King's Fund Policy Institute, said: "There is a fundamental difference between the Conservative and Labour parties in their approach to inequality. In 1980, the Government did the most in its power to suppress the Black Report on inequalities in health. Most of the Labour Party documents emphasise the importance of inequalities.

The Government has belatedly acknowledged that social variations in health exist and taken some initiatives to tackle them. But we regret the fact that they have not taken a broad social and economic approach to health inequalities." Robert Maxwell, secretary of the King's Fund, said any incoming government would need to consider the rationing of

health care. "It is not good enough to have people struggling at the lo-cal level as to what is within the NHS and what is not. The question of whether such serprovided on the NHS or not, are



Parasite in water makes 100 sick

Nicole Veash

Almost a hundred people are suffering severe stomach sickness after drinking tap water was contaminated with a microsonnic parasite, it emerged ves-

Doctors from West Hertfordshire Health Authority say 85 people have severe diarrhoea after their water was infected with the micro-organism cryptosporidium.

And thousands more householders were yesterday told to boil their water after a separate outbreak caused another eight people in Bedfordshire to fall victim to the infection. Frenchowned Three Valleys Water issued the warning to 25,000 homes in Bedfordshire following an earlier alert on Sunday to 750,000 people in Herifordshire and north-west London.

Three Valleys communication manager Frank Fitzpatrick said: "The two incidents are not linked. Bedfordshire is supplied by a reservoir, while the other areas are supplied by ground water sources.

We are still unable to establish whether the outbreaks are a result of direct water contamination?

Dr Barry Tennison, director of health for West Hertfordshire, said people should continue to boil water for drinking, cooking and brushing teeth.

There may be more cases in the next few days because there is a 7-10 day incubation period," he said. Doctors at Bedfordshire Health Authority said a boil notice should be issued after seeing an increase in the number of severe diarrhoea cases.

Cryptosporidium belongs to a

group of protozoa occurring in the farm animal dung. It is normally spread through contaminated water or contact with an infected person. Unpasteurised milk and offal also carry risks. If Independent inspectors

from the Drinking Water Inspectorate find the company negligent, they might press for

political parties to keep health between poverty and ill-health, as inequalities in health and acout of the news, health care was and that such a link was not just - cess to health care; the future Labour enraged as Major denies cover-up on E coli

Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, yesterday denied there had been a cover-up over an unpublished report warning of the danger to public health of E. coli contamination in red meat, and sought refuge in blaming their officials.

John Major and Mr Hogg were accused by Labour of applying a new doctrine of "ministerial infallibility" by refusing to accept responsibility for failures to warn the public of the risks from E, coh contamination. in abattoirs, which caused illness and deaths in Scotland in other parts of Britain, particularly among the elderly.

The European Commission

expressed concern that it had not been told of the report and

asked the Government to supply it with a copy.

The Government sought to calm public anxiety and quell renewed calls for Mr Hogg's dismissal by volunteering an emergency Commons statement over press disclosures about the report.

Labour accused the Government of suppressing the report contamination ... If he says this on the threat of E. coli in meat at the height of the BSE crisis because they feared it would compound the damage to the Government in the run-up to

Mr Major accused Tony Blair of "raising scares" about the safety of meat. Mr Hogg, who was brought to the brink of resignation over his handling of the export ban on British beef, told

PER NIGHT

giene Service cost £454,000, al-stand that." though it had never been published. Labour MPs reacted with astonishment when Mr

Major, in clashes with Mr Blair, said ministers had not received it. "That is true," said Mr Major. "It was a working document." Mr Blair said the report Mr Major and Mr Hogg were covered 54 pages and contained forced on to the defensive as 81 recommendations. It warned of "serious concern about the report was not shown to minis-

ters, I say: 'Why not?' "

you perhaps genuinely do not understand is that it was working document ... There are huge numbers of working documents of this sort every year. If they all came to ministers, if ministers read every one, ministers would do nothing else at all. You have been in Opposi-

Mr Hogg also insisted the existence of the report had been made explicit in the annual report of the Meat Hygiene Service, because it referred to a review. "Anyone who knows anything about government reviews knows they generate a report. If anyone had wanted the report, they only had to ask for I would have sent a most lord-

But Labour MPs told Mr Hogg he could not "have it both Mr Major said: "The point by saying he had received the report, and claiming the Opposition should have known of its existence. Brushing aside allegations that he was responsible. Mr Hogg said: Policy is a matter for ministers. In this case, implementation of policy is a matter for the agency. I have total confidence in the



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bugged: Mr Hogg, who hurt his ankle at the weekend, at Number 10 Photograph: Reuters

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lan Burrell

Living in tents and sheds in rural exile, they could become the fastest growing community of the new Millennium.

Allergic to modern living, they live off organic foods and shun shopping centres and traf-fic junctions through fear of becomingly seriously ill.

Take Gillian McCarthy. She

has been reduced to living in a tent, 300 yards from the sea, off the coast of Dorset.

A former biochemist, she lives in fear of reactions to perfumes, petrol fumes and

Ms McCarthy is a victim of multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS). Until now, she and fellow sufferers have struggled to persuade the authorities that their condition exists other than in their imagination.

But now, in a major breakthrough, the Department of Health and the Health and Safety Executive have ordered a major inquiry into the causes of the syndrome.

The independent has learned that health officials are increasingly worried about the number of people who attribute their psychological and physical symptoms to exposure to every-

The decision is also a breakthrough for sick Gulf veterans with symptoms similar to MCS, but whose condition the Ministry of Defence does not conducted by scientists at the in-dependent Institute of Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh,

Their first task will be to es-tablish what MCS is. The condition, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Total Allergy Syndrome, is characterised by memory loss, fatigue. depression, nausea and breathing difficulties.

Victims usually report that they were exposed to one chemical and then reacted to contact with even the smallest amounts of other chemicals, often found in everyday products. The HSE has meetings with anti-pesticide campaigners, many of whom suffer from MCS.

Emfys Chapman set up the Pesticide Exposure Group of Sufferers (PEGS) in 1988. It now has 8,000 members. She

medicines, writes Ian Burrell.

The warning, by the Medi-

Staying alive: Gillian McCarthy in the tent she has been forced to make her home, owing to an extreme allergy to che furnes, roads because of exhaust fumes and even gas appliances. difficult to walk a tightrope all the time.

Mrs Chapman set up PEGS after she suffered a serious allergic reaction to pesticides

air. She now has extreme reactions to other chemicals and has only 5 per cent muscle power in Mrs Chapman, 68, also has

defective liver, heart and lungs and has been hospitalised L2 times after accidental exposure to other chemicals: "I have to live a very careful lifestyle."

tuce for fear they have been sprayed with organophosphate pesticides and she tries to live

head of art at Burlington Danes school, in London, was reduced to living in a shed following an extreme allergic reaction to chemicals used to treat woodworm in her Hampshire cottage. ing £26,000 to remove all trace of the chemicals.

The exposure left her with a lasting reaction to even small amounts of phenols and chlorines, both of which are

She is afraid even to drink tea, because it contains a natural phenol. She has moved back into her home after spend-

"It changes your life," she said. "All the things that other people take for granted, you cannot use: household cleaners, make-ups, paints."

Trying to win compensation for the victims has been difficult. Alan Care, a lawyer with the London law firm Leigh, Day & Co. said a claim could only be successful if the victim could

identify the initial chemical ex-

posure and prove negligence. "You cannot sue the whole world's industries." he said. "This is a genuine problem that clients have but they have got to be able to identify the initiating event."

MCS victims have been compared to canaries sent down mineshafts to test for poison gases, he said: "These people are like the canaries testing the pollutants in the atmosphere for the rest of us."

Treatment of MCS also presents problems, though several people claim to have held their condition in check by us-

ing complementary medicine. Dr Julian Jessel-Kenyon, of the Centre for the Study of Complementary Medicine, in Southampton, said he gave them intravenous minerals and vitamins and asked them to fast, or follow an organic diet, in order to rid the body of toxins.



"A lot of people give up a real off organic vegetables. chlorines, both of vegetables. chlorines, both of vextremely common. life because it becomes too

Medicine users warned grapefruit juice can kill Health officials have issued a complaints or allergies are at anti-histamine terfenadine, ular Adalat, are issued a year. warning to doctors, dentists risk of overdosing. The MCA which is sold as Triludan, and The MCA has issued the warning to doctors, dentists The MCA has issued the fruits poses no risk and there are says that because the juice conimmuno-suppressant and chemists that drinking warning through its Committee believed to be no dangers from grapefruit juice could be dantains psoralen, a compound cyclosporin, which is used by on the Safety of Medicines. Research in the United In the latest "Current Probgerous for millions of people also found in celery leaves, it transplant patients. taking a wide range of common

cines Control Agency, follows scientific research which has revealed that people taking drugs for high blood pressure, heart

reacts with the drugs to increase their concentration. The consequences are potentially lethal.

The warning identifies dangers with a series of drugs which are common in many households. They include the

Also on the list are calcium

channel blockers (other than amlodipine and diltiazem) which are used to treat blood pressure and angina. More than 20 million prescriptions of these CCBs, which include the pop-

lems in Pharmaco-vigilance" briefing, the MCA warns: "Be-

cause of the potential for interactions, it is advisable for patients to avoid drinking grapefruit juice when taking the

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States last August showed a glass of grapefruit juice could trigger an overdose. Drug firms are aware of the problems. Bayer, which makes Adalat, one of the biggest-selling CCBs, has issued warnings to patients.

man of the British Fruit Juice Importers Association, said there was no need for grapefruit juice cartons to carry health warnings. "It is up to the med-icine manufacturers to say be cautious', because everybody drinks grapefruit juice and only a small number of people use the medicines where this

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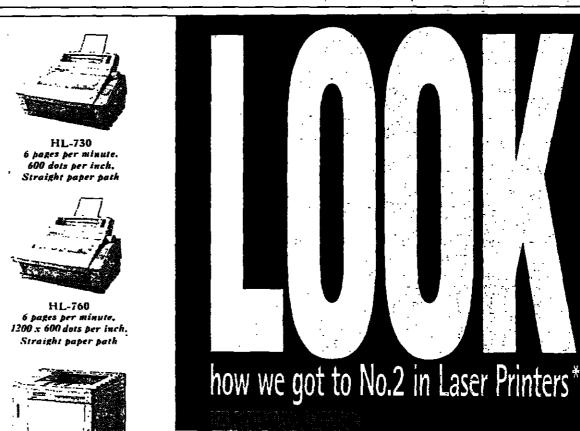
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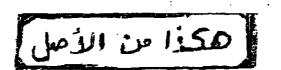
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The right honourable gentleman," the Prime Minister said, referring to the Leader of the Labour Party in his most exasperated tones, "has been in Opposition so long that he doesn't understand." Behind him his colleagues - who have been in power for a very long time and who understand all too

well - nodded in sage agreement.

The particular things that Mr Blair didn't understand were how a major warning on the dangers of E.coli contamination at abattoirs, failed to be transmitted to ministers and how an important report was altered to make criticism of food hygiene less strident. Professor Sir Hugh Pennington, the head of the group set up to investigate the Scottish E.coli outbreak, had earlier failed to understand these points as well.

Mr Major told the House: "Ministers didn't see the document, it is true: it was a working document!" His colleagues, he implied, only see idle, good-fornothing documents; documents that spend all their time at night-clubs or drinking in filing cabinets.

There are huge numbers of working documents of this sort every year. If

they all came to ministers for them to read, nothing else would be done at all." As for Mr Blair's other points, they'd all be dealt with in the statement to be made to the House later by Douglas Hogg, Secretary of State, so would be helt up and wait, like a good leader of the Opposition?

Mr Blair didn't wait, nor did the PM. As soon as Mr Hogg was called to speak, both of them made for the exit with a celerity that used to mark the

Aaronovitch

Deluded Tories prove they have totally lost the plot

playing of the national anthem at the Holloway Odeon.

Such dispatch was unnecessary, for Mr Hogg did not exactly leap to his feet. Indeed, he could not, his right foot being swathed in a large white bandage. During the weekend, Mr Hogg had tripped, and fallen down the stairs -

leaving the Agriculture Secretary

barely a leg to stand on. But a man who has fallen down the stairs at Hogg Towers and survived is not easily depressed. What to others might have seemed unpromising the most ground to defend was an impregnable fortification, with

every tiniest natural feature pressed into service.

The report had not been doctored to suppress criticism of hygiene standards. It was simply that "the first draft was regarded as rather unsatisfactory, and not fully reflecting the views of others who had taken part in the review". Why? But Mr Hogg had moved on.

Far from no-one knowing about the report's original contents, "the fact of the review was explicitly referred to on page 18 of the Annual Report on the Meat Hygiene Service's first year of operations, which was presented to Parliament on 17 July 1996 and placed in the Library of this House"

The "explicitly" is a gem, for surely no-one could be expected to infer from an obscure mention of "the fact of the review", what the now altered report

parti each ounc

had originally said? But Mr Hogg had moved on But Mr Hogg had intoved on again, toes wiggling. "Standards are constantly improving," he averred, "and are substantially better now. This is a tribute to the Meat Hygiene Service, and to the Government for insisting on its creation".

So there we had it, the staggering truth. What had begun the day as an embarrassing revelation of extreme unhappiness with measures to combat *E.coli* was ending with it being touted as proof of an unalloyed government triumph.

After such a performance it was

hard to disagree with the Prime Minister's sentiments: Labour has indeed been out of power too long.

New poll puts Labour in 21 point lead

John Rentoul

Labour has a solid 21-point lead in the first of a new series of Harris polis for The Independent. Our survey, which will be published fortnightly in the run-up to the general election in eight weeks time, suggests that Conservative supporters are more likely than Labour voters to change their mind.

The adjusted figures in our poll put Labour on 53 per cent. the Tories on 32 per cent and the Liberal Democrats on 10 per cent.

Our findings come on the same day as a Gallup poli for today's Daily Telegraph showing a dramatic widening in Labour's lead from 15 to 26 points, which is unlikely to reflect a real movement of opinion.

However, there is certainly no sign of Labour's lead weakening in the wake of last week's victory in the Wirral South by-

In our survey, 62 per cent of Labour voters say they will "certainly" vote Labour, while only 50 per cent of those who intend to vote Tory say they will certainly do so.

Conversely, 17 per cent of Tory voters admit that they might change their mind about how to vote, against only 12 per addingent of Labour voters. The find-vote.

ings scotch the theory that the Labour vote is soft.

Of those currently intending to vote Labour, 12 per cent say they voted Tory in 1992 and 6 per cent say they have switched from the Liberal Democrats.

On the other hand, the finding may reflect the well-established reluctance of Tory

Poll results

Voting intentions: Labour Lib Dem Other

Sample: 1,009 Field 28 February - 3 March Independent/Harris poll

supporters to identify themselves - a bias which contributed to the failure of opinion polls at the last election. Like the other polling com-

panies. Harris has adjusted its "raw" figures by reallocating don't-knows and people who refuse to say how they intend to vote, to the party they say they voted for in 1992. This has the effect of cutting Labour's share of the vote by two points and adding two points to the Tory

Our poll's findings are in the same range as those of the other main polling companies - the average Labour lead is currently 18 points. One of the main differences is that it gives the lowest figure for Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats - who according to ICM are running at 16 per cent, not much lower than their 18 per

cent share of the vote in the

The figures for how people say they voted in 1992 are also a useful cross-check on the broad reliability of the poll, and they show a Tory lead of one point, as against the actual 7.5point margin of John Major's victory. This is about what would be expected, given that people tend to "mis-remember" voting for the party they support

Our poll also asked a series of questions about people's attitudes to the possibility of cloning human beings. Detailed analysis of the figures reveals that older people and women are markedly more hostile to the idea. Of women, 78 per cent thought human cloning should never be allowed and all research into it stopped, against 66 per cent of men; and 80 per cent of over-55s were totally opposed, against 66 per cent of



Edwina Currie: 'There are dozens and dozens of reasons to be in the EU

Brussels funds campaign to combat sceptics

Fran Abrams and Sarah Helm

A Pro-European alliance of politicians and businessmen is to use public funding to campaign against the growing Euro-sceptic tendency in Britain.

The European Movement plans to post its own tabloid newspaper to a million homes. many in areas where the Referendum Party is running candidates in the general election.

The group plans to spend £250,000 on its campaign, £150,000 of which will be provided by the European Commission. The group's leaders said Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party was spending £2m on its campaign, which is post-ing an anti-European paper to every home in Britain. Yesterday Edwina Currie, vice-chair of the European Movement, said it was important to make sure people were aware of the benefits of being in Europe.

There are dozens and dozens of good reasons for us being in the EU. In other countries the governments are doing this. If our government won't do it. we will do it," she said.

The group, which is sup-ported by the Conservative Eu-ropean Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, and by MPs from all parties, has said it will not send out its newspaper during the election campaign but will do so

beforehand or afterwards. The paper, Europe 97, is meant to counter the growing feeling on the political right that

Britain should pull out of Europe altogether.

The campaign has received the backing of industrialists and of trades unionists. At its launch, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, Ken Jackson, said withdrawal from Europe would cost the jobs of

many of his members. "Thousands of them work for inward investors - companies who have set up shop here to gain access to the European single market. The vast majority of Britain's trade is with Europe, and that is linked to millions of

jobs here in the UK," he said. Sir Leon used vesterday's faunch to attack Euro-sceptics in his own party, who he accused of diverting attention from the real issues. "We do not have a healthy debate in the UK at the moment. Europe has become an issue against which to vent prejudices and grind axes rather han a subject of civilised debate. The British people deserve

better," he said. Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, brought a positive European message to Brussels yesterday, saying Labour would play a leading role in the European "team". However, Mr Cook con-

firmed that Labour would continue the present government's policy of demanding an "opt out" from plans to end European frontier controls and cede more powers to Brussels over immigration and asylum.

Leading article, page 17

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court Gardens. Day 5 Douglas, Isle of Man - On arrival travel north to visit Ballalheannagh Gardens and Castle Rushen. Day 6 Fort William - Drive south

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through the spectacular highland coun-

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Parties blame each other for council tax bills

Westminster Correspondent

Householders will have to pay an average 6 to 7 per cent in-crease on their council tax bills this year, according to a survey published yesterday. The increased bills sparked

an immediate row, with Labour claiming that the increases were a result of cuts in government. grant, while the Tories blamed profligate Labour controlled councils. In Scotland, where local authorities have been hit particularly hard by reduced grants, council workers walked out on strike in protest against sharp increases in council tax levels and reductions in services.

With the vast number of authorities now in Labour or Liberal Democrat control, and the Tories only controlling 14 councils, it is difficult to make the usual political comparisons. However, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountaincy report survey was next three years.

published the day after Labour Mr. Dobson pointed to a controlled Liverpool Chy Counstatement in the House by cil set a tax Band D rate of David Curry, the local govern-£1,110, the highest in the cour-ment minister, who said last De-

for the same band. There are wide variations in rises across He said: The thing we have to the country, with Labour-controlled Wolverhampton showing the highest rise, with an increase

cil taxes will rise somewhat ...

10,000 jobs are threatened by

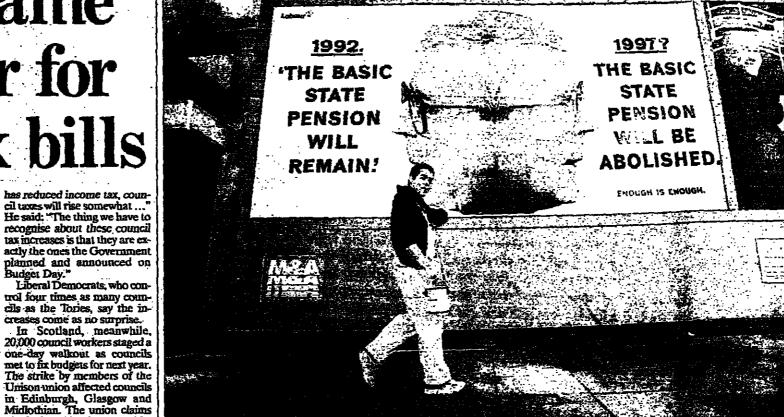
of 20 per cent.
The Cipfa report shows that the bill for an average B and D home goes up to just under £690 in England. In Wales, the rise is slightly higher, with a 7.2 per-cent increase, making the av-erage bill £494. In Scotland, average tax rises of 13 per cent are expected across the coun-

try's 32 councils.

Conservative Party vice-Chairman Eric Pickles told the Today programme yesterday: What it shows is that Labour is very expensive. They don't collect council taxes and they charge a lot for not receiving terribly good services."

But Frank Dobson, Labour spokesman on the environment said the Government had reduced its grant by £4bn over the

try. Tory-run Westminster City cember that "the Government



Labour to demand audits of crimes

Crime-cutting targets would be set in every area of the country under a Labour government, Jack Straw, the party's home af-fairs spokesman, announced

yesterday, writes Fran Abrams.
Mr Straw said police and local authorities would be forced to set the targets, which would be costed and published along with their success rates. In a speech to a Local Gov-

ernment Association conference on crime, he said each area would have a statutory duty to develop a community safety plan highlighting the types of crime which needed tackling lo-cally. Labour would also demand "crime audits" to provide details of local crime problems, multi-agency neighbourhood nuisance teams" to tackle problems and new powers to tackle the problem of children under 10 on the streets. Community safety orders would give police and local authorities powers to

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS



Callagean 'is that 'time Minister aware of the crisis in Stephnopitals in the cours area of Manchester, since Jourcout of the
hispitals have been closed down by this Government, is be
aware that the isons Manchester Serveral Hospital have since
Christmes accepted only accident and expergency Cases, and
that two weeds ago eight people resid on tribute since to because there were no best available for them sittler in that
hispital or any other hospital in the region?



Michael Clark C., Richton? "My constituency has the five of hards owners in the country, at a hardon state sent. And as we are have the inflation, har there are the states which my fit him. Friend give as well appropriate traction to people in my constituency and in the country."

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Parents urged to be wary of league tables

Education Correspondent

Parents are today receiving written "health warnings" from schools urging them to treat primary league tables published for the first time next week with extreme caution.

Headteachers have told parents that the tables, containing school-by-school results of tests taken by 11-year-olds last summer, are "misleading".

count are absences of children eligible to take the English. maths and science tests, but whose marks count as zero

when the tables are calculated. Heads have sent the letters on the advice of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), which last January lost a High Court challenge to aspects of the league tables.

Their action is the second

ing union, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, published researchwhich suggested almost a quarter of children had been given the wrong grade

in English. Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, yesterday denied the lables were misleading. Both unions were "seeking to discredit the biggest information

are being asked to take into ac- On Wednesday, another teach- and the wider public ever un-

Mrs Shephard pointed out that Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, had blamed attacks on the system on

The tables are being published on Tuesday only after a about-turn a year ago by Mrs Shephard. She originally had

Among the details parents attack on the tables in a week. exercise of its kind for parents said she would wait a further year until the tests for 11-yearolds had "bedded down".

Although the Department of Education and Employment will publish the data in alphabetical order, it will be turned into tables by newspapers.

NAHT general secretary David Hart yesterday said the union wanted parents to have a letter from school putting the league tables in context before publication day.

primary eligible to take the tests had meant a distortion of almost 25 per cent, making the school's performance appear far

worse than it was, he said. The NAHT is concerned that by dropping only a few extra marks, pupils can slip from level four, which is the standard fixed by the Government as appropriate for 11-year-olds, to level three, making it appear

that no account is taken in the tables of the number of children with special educational needs who take the tests and may achieve lower scores than their classmates, dragging down their

school's league table placing. Mr Hart denied his union was using "spoiling tactics" in advance of the tables' publication. He said: "There is an obligation on the Government to make

An absence of only four children from a group of 17 in one Schools also object to the fact is accurate and fair. We contend not be fair and it will substantially depress results in a numactic to st

thoice de

on post

per of schools The NAHT was not against testing but opposed league tables in the present form, he added. Mr Hart said whoever became Secretary of State for Education after the election ought to examine different ways to represent children's performance.

Tube line faces 12-month delay

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

The Jubilee Line extension, the £2.66n rail project which will link Westminster to east London and introduce a host of new stations in the capital, will be delayed by up to 12 months, it has been confirmed.

The announcement of a delay has been widely anticipated since a tunnel collapse in 1994 stopped work for six months, although London Transport had until this week insisted that the ILE would open on time in

March next year. The delay also saw a simmering feud between London Transport and the Government over the funding of the Tube break out into the open. The Department of Transport's spin doctors had suggested in media briefings that spending on the extension was out of control, and suggested that this fact had contributed to the Government's decision to privatise the Tube.

However, in a meeting on Tuesday described as "frosty", civil servants admitted to London Underground bosses that the DoT briefings had

The Government and LT disagreed on the actual length of the de- the next three years.

lay to the service. Peter Ford, LT's chairman, had intended to announce a six-month delay this week, but Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, intervened when his advisers said a longer delay

might occur.

The extension includes a new station at the site of the planned Millennium celebrations in Greenwich and a substantial delay will prove a headache for the next government.

Born in 1989 of Margaret Thatcher's plans for Docklands regeneration, the JLE was designed to carry stockbrokers from Waterloo station to the gleaming towers of Canary Wharf on the Isle of Dogs. Work only

started on the project in 1993. The 11-mile-long extension has al-ready seen its funding increase from £1.9bn to £2.5bn. But the delays have been caused by a range of unrelated problems including the complexity of building a new station under the Houses of Parliament. Trains running under the Palace of Westminster are subject to strict speed limits to prevent vibration.

The extra cost, expected to top £280m, will be shouldered by London Transport - which has just seen ministers cut its grant by £430m for



Late arrival: LT has had to find an extra £280m to fund the Jubilee Line extension, seen here looking west toward the City

Photograph: Alisdair MacDonald

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orange™ hutchison telecom made by 22 grand jury members on Wednesday. in this case." he said.

Lawyers say nanny charge is too harsh

Louise Jury

Lawvers for the British nanny Louise Woodward said yesterday that a United States grand the first-degree murder of a

haby was hasty and wrong. The firm of Silverglate and Good said: "A slower, more deliberative and ultimately fairer investigation would not have resulted in this indictment." Several legal experts said it was unusual and manslaughter was a more likely charge in such

Ms Woodward, 19, was arrested in the United States last month after nine-month-old Matthew Eappen died from a brain haemorrhage. Doctors said the baby's injuries were consistent with him being shaken so hard that his brain had smashed repeatedly against the inside of his skull. A postmortem examination showed he had suffered a fractured skull, caused by a "blunt trauma wound" consistent with being

thrown against a wall. Ms Woodward, who had been working for the baby's family in Newton near Boston, Massachusetts, after taking her A-levels, was arrested and held in custody. The decision to charge her with murder was

Several legal experts said vesterday that the first-degree murder charge, which carries an automatic penalty of life in prison without possibility of parole if convicted, uncommon.



Louise Woodward: Facing

Joseph Balliro, a prominent criminal defence lawyer in Boston, said: "First-degree murder requires premeditation and malice aforethought. In other words, the District Attorney is going to have to persuade a jury that this girl intended to kill this kid."

Stephen Lyons, another Boston lawyer, said the massive amount of publicity the case had generated both in the US and Europe may have contributed to the decision. "The intense publicity has put a great deal of pressure on prosecutors to do what they think the public wants

The baby's parents, Sunil Eappen, 30, an anaesthesiologist, and his wife, Deborah, 31, an ophthalmologist, have not commented on the case. But it has shocked American parents and raised questions about who

many of the other 12,000 au pairs in the US, Ms Woodward was looking after Matthew and his older brother. Brendan,

Her mother, Sue, told ITN that her daughter had not abused the child. "She can think of nothing she did that day that would cause Matthew to have any sort of seizure at all. She took very good care of him and did everything she could to help

him when he was in difficulties. Her daughter was making the best of a bad situation, Mrs Woodward added. "She realises she has to go through this process in order to prove her inocence.

But critics claim the case highlights a problem with lack of training and screening for au pairs. The young women, who are typically in their teens or early 20s and have no qualifications, are often unprepared for the work of caring for children.

In at least two cases in the US, secret cameras set up by suspicious parents have shown nannies battering the babies they were supposed to be looking after. Spying on nannies has produced its own business closed-circuit cameras are now available in teddy bears and burgiar alarm sensors.

EF Au Pair of Cambridge helped place Ms Woodward with the Eappens. It has been paying for her defence. In a statement, the agency said: "We support Louise Woodward's right to a fair trial and hope that the truth will be uncovered and justice will be served."

DAILY POEM

Prayer

By Elaine Feinstein

The windows are black tonight. The lamp at my bedside peering with its yellow 40-watt light can hardly make out the chair. Nothing is stranger than the habit of prayer.

The face of God as seen on this planet is rarcly gentle: the young gazelle is food for the predator; filmy shapes that need little more than carbon and water,

evolve like patterns on Dawkins' computer; the intricate miracles of eye and wing respond to the same ogic. I accept the evidence.

But God is the wish to live. Everywhere, as camivores lick their young with tenderness, in the human struggle nothing is stranger than the habit of prayer.

"Prayer" is one of the poems that appears in New Writing 6, the latest annual anthology of verse, fiction and essays published by Vintage (£7.99) in association with the British Council. This volume is edited by A S Byatt and Peter Porter, and the other poets represented in it include Simon Armitage, Ruth Padel. Peter Redgrove. Lavinia Greenlaw and Michael

Horse Guards turfs out civil servants' cars

Senior civil servants have been told that their privileged carparking spaces on Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall

have gone for good, writes Stephen Goodwin. Except on state occasions, pedestrians will have free roam of the square, with its panoramic views of St James's Park and the back of Downing Street. Ending car parking on the Parade was recommended by

the Royal Parks Review Group in 1993. It said it was "quite unacceptable that so fine a space ... should be used in this way". In June 1994, The Independent revealed that the plan had been quashed by John Major

ing Street civil servants. At the time, about 800 peoole were entitled to park on Horse Guards. The number has now been cut to about 250.

and senior cabinet ministers because of pressure from Down-

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Action urged to stop child sex industry

Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Adults in Britain are getting away with paying for and profiting from sex with children, the first national conference on child prostitution was told vesterda

The Children's Society called for urgent action to tackie sexual exploitation, more commonly associated with countries such as Thailand or the Philippines, recommending a clamp-down on adult offenders.

While no accurate figure ex-ists on how many children are involved in prostitution. Home Office figures show that between 1989 and 1995, 2380 cautions were issued and 1730 convictions were secured against children and young people under the age of 18 for offences relating to soliciting.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the age of children on the streets is going down, with the

were secured against 12-year-

fourteen-year-old boys.
"We know from our work that these children have fallen through every safety net there is," said Ian Sparks, the Society's chief executive. "Many have been abused or neglected as young children and experienced disrupted and unsettled lives which leave them vulnerable to adults who target them

"If there is one common denominator it is that these children and young people simply do not feel anvone cares about them. As a result they do not

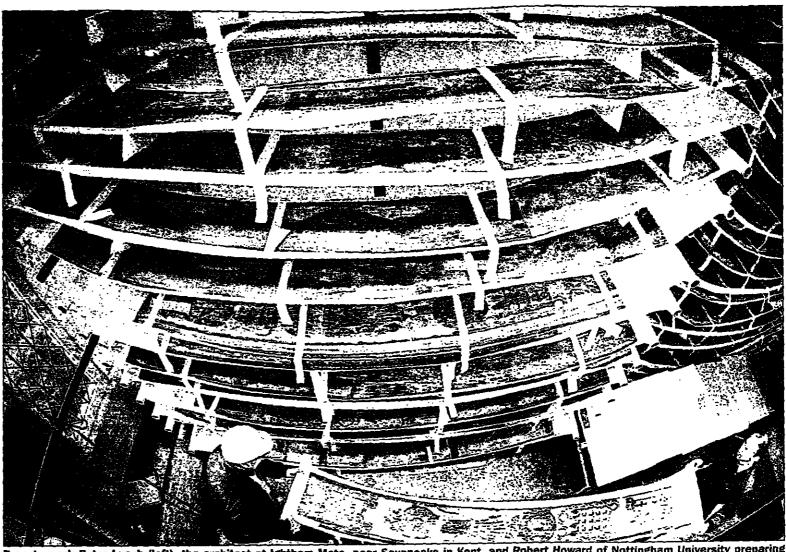
care about themselves. Allan Levy, QC, author of the foreword of the charity's book Child Prostitution in Britain, told the conference: "The approach should be towards prevention. If that fails protection not prosecution should be the policy ...

tioned for prostitution being in view of a recent television play only 10 years old. Between about an 11-year-old girl, her incantation £30 for a blow job: £25 for a hand job' should be ringold girls and two against ing in our ears and leaturing in our nightmares.

The Society called on the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to prosecute adults who abuse or profit from the abuse of children. Local authorities should also provide services for children on the street and safe accommodation for young people should be increased.

The charity, which is the

largest single provider of refuge projects for child runaways, caused outrage after producing leaflets, with a Malaysian beachstyle sunset, asking: "Why travel six thousand miles to have sex with children when you can do the same thing in Bournemouth?" Similar leaflets named Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Wales, On Wednesday the charity promised



to distribute no more in Expert panel: Peter Leach (left), the architect at Ightham Mote, near Sevenoaks in Kent, and Robert Howard of Nottingham University preparing Bournemouth after complaints. | an oak panel from the chapel ceiling to test its age. The house is thought to have the oldest long gallery in England Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Haemophiliacs' choice depends on postcode

Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Treatment for haemophiliacs presently "depends upon the pa-tient's postcode" and the Department of Health must take action to deal with this, experts warned vesterday.

In a letter to the British Medical Journal the UK Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation (UKHCDO) urged the Government to ensure such patients are treated fairly and not "abrogate its responsibility".

At present some haemophiliacs are treated with recombinant Factor VIII, a purer, artificial form of the clotting agent, rather than the cheaper. plasma-derived version made from treated which carries a higher risk of viral infection.

Doctors generally agree that recombinant Factor VIII is preferable on clinical grounds to plasma-derived Factor VIII for all haemophiliacs, but especially for children.

Last month four boys unsuccessfully took their local health authorities to the high court after they refused to fund the recombinant treatment.

Dr Christopher Ludlam, chairman of the UKHCDO said that the group had advised that recombinant should be used, particularly for babies and children who were not infected with hepatitis C. But he added: "The implementation of the guideline recommendations

... has been variable."
In the south of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland recombinant Factor VIII is becoming available for high priority patients, In the north of

lic health are willing to fund it, while neighbouring authorities are not. Treatment choice depends on a patient's postcode. There are thus widely divergent arrangements for treatment with a drug that is perceived by physicians, patients and parents alike to be safer."

Dr Ludlam said that health authorities had frequently made funding decisions which were "arbitrary" and that the DoH had "not so far provided any ev-idence to UKHCDO to indicate rFVIII should not be the treatment of choice."

Calling for dialogue between the directors and government. he added that the department should provide leadership on plemented. "To leave the decision to the apparent vagaries of local purchasers is to abrogate its responsibility for an important aspect of health care.

A spokesman for the Haemophilia Society welcomed the letter and "fully supported the suggestion that dialogue should be established between UKHCDO and the Department of Health"

In the early 1980s 1,200 haemophiliacs were infected with HIV from contaminated plasma-derived Factor VIII. Around 3000 - out of a total of 5,000 haemophiliaes in the UK - have been infected with he-

patitis C The UK's use of recombinant is between 4-10 per cent of all Factor VIII given. It can cost twice as much as the plasma-derived product, and if a health authority refuses to pay for it, a doctor has little choice but to prescribe the less safe product.

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Rebels try 'traitors' as Albania stumbles closer to civil war

Yannis Behrakis

Sarande -- Heavily-armed rebels in this picturesque southem Albanian port prepared to send a secret police officer to a "people's court" in the town square yesterday as they forti-fied hilltop defences against a possible army attack.
Insurgents who seized control

of the town in the anti-government riots at the weekend dug in on hilltops at the eastern entrance to the town. Rebel checkpoints were set up and barricades raised to defend Sarande against any attempt by regular army troops to crush the

Undeterred by a state of emergency, the insurgents hold sway in Sarande, the larger port of Vlora and several other points in the south.

Thousands of Sarande's inhabitants have joined the uprising against President Sali Berisha, seizing an array of weapons from state arsenals during the weekend rioting.

Hundreds of rebels paraded through the streets of another town. Tepelene, firing into the air with Kalashnikov rifles seized from an army barracks.

Wrecks of cars and army vehicles littered the city centre. and huge stocks of dynamite were piled in the barracks. "We will not return our weapons until Berisha resigns."

southern Albania has gone over to the side of the people. We took Kalashnikovs away from

said one colonel. "The army in

An Italian nun, speaking by

telephone yesterday to the Italian news agency, Ansa, from Vlora, said the army had cut off the town. A hospital had been looted during the night, and no medicines were left to treat the sick and wounded. They have taken everything away, and we don't know how we are going to treat the burns and gunshot wounds.

Seven Albanian soldiers requested political asylum in Greece yesterday, the first to do so since Albanian rebels and the army clashed near the Greek horder this week, a Greek defence ministry spokesman said. The soldiers would be con-

sidered political refugees until the foreign and public order ministries decided whether to grant them asylum, spokesman Dimitris Katsoulis said. He had no details on the circumstances under which the soldiers turned themselves over. He said all of them had been on active duty inside Albania.

Sarande is in the south-west corner of Albania, just across from Corfu and north of the Greek border. For five days, locals have run riot, firing new Kalashnikov assault rifles in the air, driving a seized tank around the town and sporting headscarves and ghoulish masks

Former army officers, siding with the rebels, have organised hundreds of gunmen into units, set up well-fortified defensive positions and established radio links with rebel strongholds in the nearby hills.

We're telling everyone to uncover their faces. We're not criminals. We're freedom fight-



matic rifle fire have filled the air yesterday, and most people

ers who are fighting for every-one in Sarande." said a group leader at one of the barricades

at the entrance to the town. Heavy machine-guns and anti-aircraft artillery were being placed around the position. and camouflage was used to cover weapons for the first time.

Rebel groups were also moving into the hill country to the north of Sarande, where the first clash took place with about 60 army regulars on Wednesday. In the town, a man accused

of being a police agent was being held by the rebels and was to be sent before a "people's

The rebels tied another suspect to a telephone pole and kicked him repeatedly in the face. He was dragged before an enraged mob in the square where he "confessed" over a public address system. His fate

Berisha softens 'iron hand' stance and agrees to reopen talks

Andrew Gumbel

Albania's President Sali Berisha agreed with opposition parties yesterday that his armed forces would not try to seize rebei towns in the south by force, and said be would offer an amnesty to insurgents who surrendered weapons within two days. A statement issued by the President and

10 parties after more than five bours of talks also said Mr Berisha would seek a political consensus on replacing the Prime Minister, Aleksande Meksi, who stepped down last weekend. Three days into a state of emergency sparked by an armed rebellion across the south of the country. Mr Berisha's resolve to use an

vesterday, unlike previous days

"iron hand" appeared to have been softened by the force of international condemnation of his repressive and dictatorial behaviour. His meeting with the opposition leaders came two days after he cut off all ties with them. He also eased the curfew in operation in Albania and the restrictions that had been imposed on

foreign journalists. A delegation from the Council of Europe began a two-day fact-finding mission yesterday, and the Dutch Foreign Minister, Hans Van Mierlo, was due to arrive in Tirana today to mediate in the crisis on behalf of the European Union. EU governments are pressing for the formation of a broad-based coalition which could

heal the rifts opened up by the conflict and wean Albania back towards democracy. Mr Berisha also warmed slightly to the

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, agreeing in principle to a visit by their freshly-appointed special envoy, Franz Vranitzky, although he did not agree to any specific date.

On Wednesday, Mr Berisha had ruled out an OSCE visit, even though Albania is a member. Relations between the organisation and the Albanian government have been at rock bottom since the OSCE reported widespread vote-rigging in last May's general elections, where Mr Berisha's Democratic Party claimed

men aboard, but yesterday it was set up behind a well-built de-

fensive position to the east of

A main bridge about 12 miles east of Sarande was bombed on Wednesday, limiting access to the coastal town from the army

barracks to the north or from

the Greek border to the south. Four army tanks were parked on the main north-south road at the Muzine junction, which leads to Sarande, but soldiers let cars detour around the tanks without interference.

A deep crater was blasted in the roadbed on the bridge during the first clash between rebels and army troops in the area-by which side was not clear - and only cars can skirt around it. After the bridge, rebels control the area. Several miles down the Muzine road, well-armed gunmen stopped cars at rebel checkpoints. For the first time rebels searched cars before letting them pass. "We have a war on. What else can we do?" asked one gumman.



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Virtual poo in the handbag becomes a fashion accessory that no girl can do without

The high-pitched electronic cheep can only mean one thing: Michiyo Takana's Tamagotchi have pooed in her handbag again. "If you don't clear it up," Ms Takana patiently explains, "the number of poos increases. You can get up to eight poos, but if you just leave them there, t gets sick and dies."

as boys and men alike tried out

their new weapons. But there

this week when bursts of automatic rifle fire have filled the air yesterday, and most people on Wednesday and paraded around town with a pack of gun-

She reaches into the bag and removes one of her pets. It resembles a flattened blue egg with a tiny grey screen and three buttons. Blinking from the display is a small round blob with a smiley face. Beside it, cunningly pixillated in liquid crystal, is a steaming virtual turd. Michiyo Takana, who works

n the office next to mine is 21, slim and fashionably dressed. But more desirable than her beauty, wardrobe, or youth-to a few million of her contemporaries, at least - are the two bleeping lumps of plastic she carries around with her.

6 You can get up to eight poos, but if you leave them there, it will die 🤊

Since its launch at the end of ast year, the Tamagotchi electronic pet (the name translates as something like "Eggsy") has become the most sought-after, and the most fought-over, object of Japanese desire. The first production run of 750,000 models, originally priced at yen 1,980 (£10.50), has long since been exhausted. Factories in Hong Kong and Singapore are working frenziedly to produce 4 million more by next month. The manufacturer, Bandai, plans to sell 13 million over the

Black market Tamagotchi are changing hands at unbelievable prices. Ms Takana has the best brought up eggsies are been offered £250 for her blue-

and-pink model, and word is they are frail and unpredictable that the most popular white Tamagotchi is changing hands create a spoiled or delinquent for almost £800. Unquenched demand is

creating a new breed of Tam-

were busy preparing for a pos-

sible assault. A tank was seized

agotchi criminal. While prom-enading recently in Shibuya, Tokyo's greatest teenage hangout, a girl in school uniform attempted to snatch the toy from around Ms Takana's neck. Last week a helicopter, several patrol cars, and a dozen po-lice officers were involved in the pursuit of a gang of bandits who had made of with one of the vir-

tual pets. The four delinquents turned out to be 14 years old. The toy (full name: "Hyper Interactive Digital Pet Tamagotchi") has already spawned two how-to advice books on its

rearing and nurture.

Each game begins with the Each game begins with the appearance on screen of the Bebitchi ("Babesy"), the most primitive stage of the creature; the aim is to keep it alive for as long as possible, watching it grow through various stages of life right to maturity as an Oyajitchi ("Grampsy").

The growing animal has various needs, of which defecation is only one. Intermittent beens

is only one. Intermittent beeps indicate that the pet needs to be fed, disciplined, or entertained. These are accomplished by means of the buttons and a series of symbols; when the Tamagotchi is ill (perhaps from being left for too long with a full nappyload) you treat him by moving a cursor and clicking on a tiny syringe, The uniqueness of the game

is the length of time over which it is played. The game beeps for attention a couple of times an hour, but it can be muted or put into hibernation when more pressing matters are at hand. and it sleeps for 12 hours a night. One day is the equivalent of one Tamagotchi year, and so now several months old, but create a spoiled or delinquent eggsy, which will demand ever more attention; neglect, as with all pets, can be lethal. "The last

time, it died when I was singing

arrives - a small digital gravestone appears on the screen.] I was so shocked that I cried

we came out, paid the bill, and it was dead." [There can be no

mistake when this sad moment

I was genuinely upset and I decided that the next time it dies, it will be because of fate, or sickness, not because of my



المكذا من الأصل

Robust Yeltsin must find cure for Russia's ills

Seven months late, Boris Yeltsin in effect began his second term of office vesterday with a relevised speech to parliament in which he finally signalled that be is back on active duty as the president of an angry, disori-entated, and often lawless na-

Both his doctors and his Kremlin handlers breathed a sigh of relief after the Russian leader delivered a state-of-thenation address which will have done much to convince the world that he has - at least, for now - overcome his ill health.

Last night, Russia was awaiting details of a government reshuffle, the second flourish in a comeback that was delayed first by his multiple bypass surgery, and then by an attack of double pneumonia that convinced much of the country's political elite that the Yeltsin era

was drawing to a close. But the 66-year-old president, officially inaugurated last August, demonstrated that those predictions may have been premature. His powers of survival - which helped him weather an armed conflict with parliament, the Chechen war, a near total collapse in his ratings, person-al depression, and at least two heart attacks - have yet to be

Although Mr Yeltsin seemed to flag slightly towards the end of the 25-minute speech, he spoke clearly and strongly and looked fitter than at any time since rocking and rolling at a pop concert on a whirlwind election campaign last summer, before disappearing from view in late June.

Since then, Mr Yeltsin's popularity has nosedived, driven downwards by public indigna-tion over his broken election promises, unpaid wages and pensions, crime, corruption and general economic despair. A few Russians may have taken comfort yesterday in the knowledge that there is, at last, a working president in the Kremlin. But the content of his speech seems unlikely to have

won him many new fans. It was an unsubtle example of a Communist-era tradition in which the party leader publicly lambasted the apparatchiki on



Healthy state: Boris Yeltsin before his address began

behalf of the abused masses. For Mr Yeltsin, who frequently uses this technique, it was as if the government was not his re-

In a sweeping and bleak indictment, he depicted a country that was stranded midway beneath the derelict Soviet system and a free market economy. He bemoaned Russia's falling production, lack of investment, unpaid wages and pensions, declining living standards, and "corruption at every pretenders to his throne.

level of power". Plans for a nation-wide strike on 27 March had his sympathy. This is an alarm. This is a sign that people are running out of pa-tience." One of his only moments of optimism was a prediction that Russia would see 2 per cent growth this year.

But there was little new in his prescriptions for dealing with these dangerous ailments. These included a crackdown on corruption, tighter budgeting prac-tices, a simplified tax code, and compliance with the widely ig-nored federal constitution. He talked of introducing "competent and vigorous people" into government, said he was soon planning to take fundamental decisions on the reform of armed forces, which were in an "extremely worrying" state.

His performance was, inevitably, rubbished by Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the Communists, who characterised his speech as "miserable, helpless buffoonery, without any real content". However, esterday, it was not the president's words that mattered

The fact that he made the speech, in seemingly good health, meant that Mr Yeltsin could at last chalk up a triumph in a country which had begun to compare his rule with the zastoi - stagnation - of the Brezh-

his handlers, who successfully attracted media attention away from the president's health by systematically leaking bits of his speech earlier this week. And it was a signal that he intends to compete his four year-term, despite the menacing circling of

محدًا من الأصل

Glory days: Celebrating Mass at the Gdansk shipyard during the 1980s protests. Now it is to close Photograph: Camera Press

Solidarity's birthplace consigned to history

Adrian Bridge Central Europe Correspondent

The Gdansk shipyard, the birthplace of communist Eastern Europe's first independent trade union, vesterday fell victim to the very forces it helped to unleash when its last 3,800 employees were told they had been axed.

There was bitterness and regret at the news, "It took my breath away when we were told we had all been fired," said Roman Galezowski, who has been building ship hulls for 19 years

The shipyard shot to promi-nence in 1980 when it succeeded in forcing the then-ruling Communists to recognise the Solidarity trade union under the

leadership of Lech Walesa. Paradoxically, the introduction of a free market in Poland signalled the death knell for the over-manned and uncompeti-

Nato favours three for the club

Nato is down to a shortlist of three likely new members -Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary - although Slove-nia is still a possible fourth, ac-

The structure is expected to

partnership for co-operation

with the remaining non-Nato states in Eastern Europe after

the first wave of enlargement;

a Nato-Russia council: and, in

an unexpected development, a

forum for negotiations between

cording to senior Nato sources. They also said the shape of a Nato-Russia deal, and of the mechanisms for consultation between Nato and other East European states, is emerging

It was certainly a triumph for

Shortlist is narrowed down to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, writes Christopher Bellamy

Of the likely new members, made at this month's Helsinki Poland, with 40 million people, summit between Presidents is expected to be the fifth most important member of Nato after the United States, Ger-

many, Britain and France. All new members will have senior officers in key Nato apbe three-legged: an Atlantic pointments. But Poland's size and military tradition will make it a key player. Slovenia is still a possible new member the first time round. Sources said the real problems were over Nato states ratifying a possible

fifth member, Romania. The invitations to join will be issued at the Madrid Nato summit in July, and Nato hopes the first new members may be able to join in time for the Alliance's 50th anniversary summit in April 1999, though this is said to be "not a target or a

that a final decision would be

summit between Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin. There will be a North Atlantic Coopera-

gal at the end of May. The mechanics of enlargement are not the main problem. Nato now believes. "Russia handling" is one, and disputes between the Alliance are the other. "We are offering you [Russia] a very genuine and serious strategic partnership. Please make the most of it", one ton Nato official said, "If they miss out on the next two years

tion Council meeting in Portu-

they miss out on a new culture". He added that Russian misgivings about Nato enlargement had been acknowledged. They see us [Nato] as a mir-

ror-image of the Warsaw Pact. They think we're going to put in Poland the same infrastruc-Officials rejected suggestions ture they put in East Ger-

However, Nato is adamant Russia will not be given a veto over decision-making and Nato will not promise Russia that certain countries will never be allowed to join. Nor will there he any pledge not to conduct Nato exercises in Eastern Europe, or

Ukraine, a state of more than 50 million people, which gave up the nuclear weapons it inherited from the Soviet Union is "a very big subject, and Nato plans to treat it as a mini-version of Russia, with its own forum for liaison with Nato. "We are going through all the same issues in front of the Ukrainians as we are with the Russians", a For-

to deploy Western troops in new

member states.

eign Office official said. The Alliance's biggest prob-lem is internal. The French want a European to take charge of Nato's Southern European Command (Alsouth), based in

Naples, but the US and some other Nato countries have been adamant this should not happen because of the strategic importance of the Mediterranean.

However, there have been extensive changes in Alsouth since Nato moved into Bosnia in 1995. Instead of being a "US fieldom with the odd Italian ". Nato officials said European Nato nations had moved into key positions in the command. particularly the British and Norwegians.

Nato planners have produced the first two plans based on scenarios for operations to be carried out by the Western European Union - the European group within Nato.

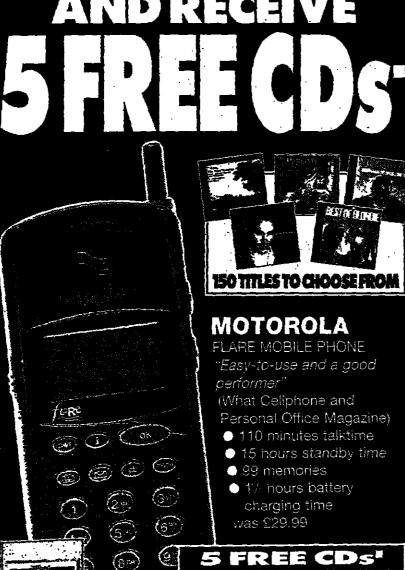
"It's the first step towards Nato doing the WEU's operational planning for it", a Nato source said.

It is envisaged that the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe , usually a Briton and currently General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, will take charge of WEU operations. using Nato troops.

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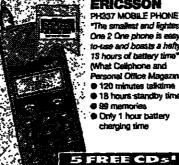
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No hiding place for fraudsters as Europe moves to end tax havens and 'piracy'

Plan could recoup billions of unpaid duty, writes Sarah Helm in Brussels

Ideas for European fiscal citizenship which could lead to the eventual seiting up of a European tax authority are to be canvassed next week at a high level meeting on tax reform in

The idea envisages the gradual abolition of "resident" and "non resident" tax status for European citizens, in order to create a single "European resident" status for tax-

The plan, which exists in outline only, is initially intended as a way of stopping cross-border tax fraud. Citizens living in one member state would no longer be able to avoid tax by investing or placing savings as a "non-resident" in another member state. Instead, they would be taxed on all earnings as a European

The idea, proposed by Belgium, and supported in principle by several member states, could recoup billions in unpaid tax, and could case the operation of the single market. How-ever, the implications of creating "European fiscal citizenship" are highly controversial.

European legislation would be necessary to set up the scheme. which would have to be administered by some form of tax authority. The idea could fuel fears that Europe is moving towards setting up a single European tax system.

A meeting of national tax advisers, under the chairmanship of Mario Monti, the single market commissioner, will discuss the plans on Tuesday, as part of a long term drive aimed at speeding the process of harmonising direct and indirect

taxes across Europe.

Ideas are also being discussed for a code of conduct, setting minimum rates for corporation tax in order to stop member states indulging in unfair "tax competition" or "tax piracy to seduce foreign investors. As



Open view: The Monti group will look at the abolition of European citizens' tax havens such as Luxembourg (above)

up so-called tax havens is being

Britain is opposed to any plans for tax harmonisation, arguing that such proposals would set Europe on a federal path. However, France and Germany, as well as other member states, recognise that national tax systems are becoming more and more incompatible with

the single European market, and could be incompatible with a single currency.

Furthermore, competing tax systems create unfair competition between member states, and allow for mass cross-border fraud which is deemed to be holding up growth and

Billions of pounds in tax revenue is being lost because national tax regimes are competing unfairly and because national authorities cannot cope with mass movement of people

across European borders. Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, this week stepped up pressure for tax harmonisation, calling for a culture of fair tax competition to

be established among countries in

Meanwhile, voices on the left are increasingly concerned that uncontrolled competition between tax systems benefits wealthy Europeans and large companies, who are able to move capital and savings as they "shop around" for good deals. Ordinary Europeans, meanwhile, bear Photograph: Jim Selby/Rex

the brunt of welfare and benefit cuts, which compensate for loss of revenue. land, for example The initial round of proposals to be discussed by the Monti group highlights the need for harmonisa-

ings and VAT.

 ← Theo Waigel called for a culture of fair tax competition >

be incorporated in the forthcoming Amsterdam treaty, should be broad enough to apply to monetary union. Mr de Silguy wants to ensure that countries which join the single currency should have the "flexibility" to opt for far wider tax and social serity harmonisation in the future. Both France and Germany want such a flexibility clause in order to maintain the option for states inside the euro zone to forge deeper inte-

gration of economic policies. All member states are increasingly accusing each other of "tax piracy and turning a blind eye to tax fraud. As more Europeans move across borders, and more and more multi-nationals invest in member states, tax has become harder to police.

Germany is particularly worried about the vast sums invested by Germans in Luxembourg banks, which do not have a withholding tax, or a tax on interest on savings. Germany loses about \$12bn (£7.5bn) a year in this way.

Corporation tax competition is also likely to be tackled in the first round of harmonisation measures. Ireland and the Netherlands are deemed to be the prime offenders in this area. lure foreign investors. Germany is monitoring unfair corporation tax of-fers in Belgium and Corsica. Some in European finance min

istries believe the entire task of tax harmonisation is too ambitious for the European Union to tackle alone. If loopholes are closed in Europe, tax dodgers will move their money out-

Officials working on the plans say the answer to this problem is to tion of corporation tax, tax on sav-ines and VAT. Economic Co-operation and De-velopment in parallel harmonisation Meanwhile, Yves Thibault de Sil- projects and to work on bilateral guy, the economic commissioner, is arrangements between the EU and arguing that a "flexibility" clause, to non-member states.

OJ-style trial for Oklahoma bomb suspect

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"There is no panic here." said Stephen Jones, leaning back on the other side of a vast leathertopped desk. There's an ebb and flow. You take the Chinese view of history. This week, the press is bad for us, next week it could be good. We take our hits, they take their hits." The desk. like its master, is an import from the small wheat and cattle town of Enid, Oklahoma, where for 30 years Mr Jones practised law.

The fittysomething, bespectacled, self-avowed Anglophile claims his inspiration from great British lawyers such as Lord Erskine. From his new headquarters in central Denver, the veteran defence attorney heads a team of 14 lawyers acting for

Match 5 (Jackpot)

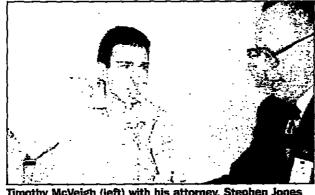
TOTALS

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trial next month for killing 168 people in the worst act of terrorism in US history, "I've been appointed by the court to defend somebody," promises Mr. Jones, "and I am going to use every ethical means to do it.

Mr McVeigh's defence in the Oklahoma City bombing trial has had its share of small vietories, Early on, Mr Jones asked for and got a change of venue to Denver, and then won separate trials for his client and the other accused. Terry Nichols. Recent newspaper accounts of mishandled evidence at the FBI's central crime laboratory promised fertile ground to attack forensic evidence. OJ-style. But the team encountered its biggest crisis this week. With the jury selection process just get-

NO. OF WINNERS



Timothy McVeigh (left) with his attorney, Stephen Jones

£653,527

£5.932.920

£12.439.509

las newspaper printed excerpts from a defence memorandum. alleging that Mr McVeigh had made a detailed confession. Mr Jones' defence was to at-

£3,400.685

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

5.3/97. The winning numbers: **07, 12, 20, 24, 28, 43.** Bonus number: **45.** Total Sales: £27,717,110. Prize Fund: £12,472,700 (45% of ticket sales).

ting under way in Denver, a Dal-tack, calling the story "an irresponsible hoax". Then he accused the Dallas Morning News reporter of electronic theft of defence files. Finally, he said the "confession" document had ac-

fence investigators to persuade a hostile witness to talk, in what he called a "Mutt and Jeff" routine targeted at a notorious figure on the American far right. "We're not investigating a white collar crime with country-club types." he said, insisting that the Supreme Court had

sanctioned such tactics. The only corroboration for this bizarre tale came from a reporter for a rural Oklahoma newspaper. ID Cash, who has also written for far-right publications, said an investigator on the McVeigh team showed him the faked confession a year ago. But while the Texas paper stuck to its story, Mr Jones had thrown up enough dust to make potential jurors think again. There are six legs of the gov-

ernment case against the former soldier and Gulf war veteran, Mr Jones said. Two are Mr McVeigh's arrest on the road from Öklahoma City on 19 April 1995, hours after the bombing, and his known right-

wing views.
"I can't change the facts. Tim thinks what he thinks, and he was arrested where he was arrested," said Mr Jones. But of the rest, he said: "I challenge from A to Z and those four legs have gotten termites in them."

The defence will undoubtedly accuse Michael Fortier, who

McVeigh and is the government's star witness, of changing his story to win himself a reduced sentence and immunity

for his wife. It has already dredged up

criminal records and inconsistencies in eyewitnesses who claimed to see Mr McVeigh on the road to Oklahoma City. The defence could also be helped by reports that a government informant was inside Elohim City, the right-wing Christian com-pound in Oklahoma to which Mr McVeigh made two tele-phone calls that April. The woman, according to govern-ment sources, claimed two other men - one a German national with neo-Nazi links - had talked of bombing federal

Mr Jones is guarding his hand. He will not have to release his witness list until well into the expected six-month trial. But his chief tactic is not to point the finger at others, but to sow reasonable doubt - just

as he was doing this week.
"The Dallas Morning News can go to hell," he said. "I am not going to win the battle with the press. If I win the battle of the courtroom, who cares about this? If I lose the battle of the courtroom, it's going to be because the jury said the evidence was convincing.

Red Army looks back in anger from Lebanon

Middle East Correspondent

It was a classic Lebanese solution. The Prosecutor General was oleased. Prime Minister Ratiq Hariri was satisfied. Syria was content - though officially insisting that it was all an internal Lebanese affair. Even the Japanese government was happy. Only the five alleged Japanese Red Army members - including their one-time leader Kozo Okimoto have reason to look back in anger. Locked up and awaiting forgery charges, they watched three other Japanese released from custody - one of them a reported intelligence officer for the apanese government who had

given them all away. Like all good Lebanese tales, this one leaves a lot of unan-swered questions. Why, for example, did it take 19 days for the authorities in Beirut to admit that their State Security men had arrested the Red Army members - an operation carried out on 15 February? How comethe interior and foreign ministers - not to mention Adnan Adoum, the Prosecutor General spent days denying any knowldge of the detained men? Mr Okimoto was part of :

pro-Palestinian Red Army hit team that slaughtered 20 pilgrims at Tel Aviv airport in 1972. Released by the Israelis in 1985 along with hundreds of other prisoners in exchange for a handful of Israeli soldiers - he disappeared in Lebanon, leaving the Japanese authorities furious at being unable to secure his extradition. Even now they may not get their men as quickly as they wish. If charged with forgery, the five could spend at least three years in a Lebanese prison.

The Syrians, officially refusing to involve themselves in Lebanese internal affairs, must, of course, have been well aware of the arrests; and Damascus may expect Japan's thanks. Lebanon may also expect some gratitude from Tokyo – perhaps in the way of reconstruction in-

As for Mr Okimoto - along with Masao Adatchi, Kazuo Tohira, Haruo Wako and Mariko Yamamoto (the only female detainee) - he must face a lengthy trial in Beirut.

ON MOTHER'S DAY MAKE YOUR MUM FEEL EXCEPTIONAL. Annette Edwards, 45, with eight of her ten children, attributes her youthfulness to the NIVEA Visage facecare range. Whether your mother has one child or ten, she's still a special mum. Make her feel exceptional with a gift of NIVEA Visage on Mother's Day, Sunday March 9th,

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Gina admits !

Battle of Gorleben boosts Greens' leverage

Nuclear industry faces extinction as Social Democrats are forced to espouse the environmental cause. writes **imre Karacs** in Bonn

rushed to renounce nuclear power yesterday as police mopped up the debris of their most expensive waste disposal operation since the war.

The fallout from the Battle of Gorleben blew into the po-litical arena, poisoning the air between Greens and Social Democrais, but also threatening to engulf the governing coalition

As a result of the public outcry over the cost of escorting six failed, however, to mask funcaskets of radioactive waste to their crypt, Gorleben will probably never receive another consignment, and the industry faces

"The dinosaur technology of nuclear power has no future," declared the Social Democrats' environment spokesman in the Bundestag, Michael Müller,

in a stunning U-turn.
"Gorleben has shown again that there is no majority in the Federal Republic in favour of nuclear energy." The consensus, clear convoy this week against Mr Müller added, is for "exit mostly peaceful environmen-

Germany's opposition parties medium term, if not earlier". The Social Democrats, while energy, had until now accepted it as a necessary evil. However, growing public disquiet about the disposal of radioactive waste, and the ever-improving electoral performance of the Greens, are forcing Germany's biggest opposition party to espouse the environmentalist

> Their sudden conversion has damental enmities that bedevil the relationship between the two left-wing movements. Os-tensibly future coalition partners, the Reds and the Greens were yesterday at each other's throats, clashing in the parliament of Lower Saxony.

The regional government ruling over Gorleben and its embittered hinterland is in Social Democrat hands. The 30,000 policemen and border guards sent in to defend the nuclear convoy this week against from nuclear power in the talists received their marching



ve power: Anti-nuclear protesters this week getting a drenching from water cannon at Dannenberg, en route to GorlebenPhotograph: Zed Nelson/Katz

orders from this authority. Lower Saxony's Prime Minister, Gerhard Schröder, is a pro-business Social Democrat; a friend of industry who treats the Greens with contempt.

But early next year Mr Schröder comes up for election, and the polis suggest that he will not be able to form a government without the help of the Greens. This in itself is a com-

pelling reason to persuade him that allowing another shipment to Gorleben this time next year might not be wise, but being reelected in Lower Saxony is also a prerequisite for Mr Schröder's to govern alone in Bonn.

greater ambition: to be the next Chancellor of Germany. The national arithmetic, again. shows that the Social Democrats will not be strong enough

SAVE

Mr Schröder would rather go to bed with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats than be rushed into a shotgun wedding with the Greens, but if Mr Kohl stays on, this option

will not be open. A Red-Green coalition appears to be the only choice, comented by the cnvironmentalists traditional hos-tility to nuclear energy, now endorsed by the Social Democrats, and their common craving for power of the tradi-tional kind.

The greening of the Reds has also led to the abandonment of another industry rich in tradi-tion and Social Democrat votes. Last night the government was finalising plans to cut back coal subsidies, currently amounting to DM10bn (£3.6bn) a year; a programme the Social Democrats have pledged to support, despite the pit closures that will

On the day that the nuclear waste reached Gorleben, at an estimated cost of up to DM100m, 3.500 miners at the last colliery in Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr received their redun-

With every mining job cost-ing the taxpayer DM100.000 a year, it could be argued that without Gorleben 1.000 unemployed miners would still be working. But that arithmetic, halancing as it does two forms of energy that have become politically incorrect, never entered anybody's

Business, page 20

significant shorts

Turkish PM sees army's secular point of view

Turkey's Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, bowed to the generals and ratified demands designed to reinforce the secular order introduced by the nation's founder, Ataturk. Mr Erbakan signed 20 measures strengthening secularism this week, all proposed by the military. He has prolonged his administration, a fragile coalition of his Welfare Party and the centre-right True Path Party, but he knows that carrying out the army's proposals will affect areas of life. like education and dress, where Islamists have been able to gnaw at Turkey's secular tradition. Obey the generals, and Mr Erbakan risks alienating his most committed supporters. Ignore them, and he may face worse. Christopher De Bellaigue - Ankara

Paris mayor faces graft probe

The Mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi, has been placed under formal investigation for alleged embezzlement of public funds. The step is embarrassing for President Jacques Chirac and the Prime Minister. Alain Juppé, associates of Mr Tiberi. Magistrates have been investigating the receipt of £21,000 by Mr Tiberi's wife for allegedly bogus and unnecessary research for a regional council in the Paris suburbs. The magistrates say they now have evidence that the work and payment were arranged by Mr Tiberi and the money was paid into a joint bank account bearing both their names.

China admits Muslim unrest

China indirectly acknowledged ethnic unrest in Muslim Xinjiang as an official called for unity in the region, rocked by separatist bomb attacks last week. "Xinjiang ... must further improve ethnic unity, protect social stability and do a better job of building up Xinjiang," the People's Daily quoted Li Lanqing, a vice-premier, as saying. His remarks to Xinjiang delegates at the National People's Congress (parliament) were one of the few signs in the national media that the region had pagin been chaken by national media that the region had again been shaken by ethnic unrest. Three bombs on buses blew up last month in an apparently co-ordinated attack. Reuter - Peking

Hostage talks undermined

The leader of rebels holding 72 hostages in the Japanese ambassador's residence accused Peruvian police of digging a tunnel under the building and called off talks. Nestor Cerpa made the statement in a radio communication a day after the minth round of negotiations with the government. A tenth round had been scheduled for today.

Doctors down stethoscopes

About 20,000 doctors and nurses in the Muslim-Croat-controlled part of Bosnia went on strike, demanding pay rises and disbursement of back-salaries.
They said would help only patients whose life is
threatened. The protest follows two inconclusive one-day

Tamil clash leaves 200 dead

More than 200 people were killed when Tamil Tiger guerrillas overran a military base and attacked the air force's eastern headquarters, the army said. According to the military, 100 Tigers were killed and 48 soldiers died in the attack.



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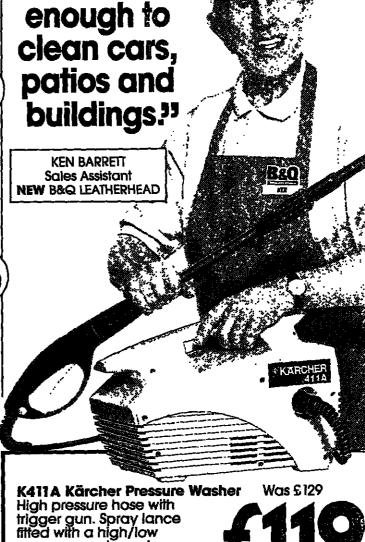












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Cheddi Jagan

Cheddi Jagan was the last of a Howard University, an Africangeneration of pre-Independence Caribbean leaders that includes Norman Manley, of Jamaica, Grantley Adams, of Barbados, Eric Williams, of Trinidad and Tobago, and L.F.S. Burnham, of

He was born in 1918 at Port Mourant, a sugar plantation in the county of Berbice, in Guyana, or British Guiana. as it was then: British Guiana became independent in 1966 and changed its name to Guyana. He was a descendant of Indians who were brought, under a sys-tem of indenture, between 1838 and 1917, to work on sugar plantations in the Caribbean. It was his plantation upbringing that imbued in him a lifelong pa to free his people from the hard-ship and injustice of colonialism

and oppression. Despite hardship and poverty, Jagan's parents saved for studies in the United States, where he first entered

American school, and later the Dental School at Northwestern University in Chicago, During his years in the United States (1936 to 1943), Jagan did not only qualify as a dentist; he became exposed to a variety of revolutionary literature including Marx's Das Kapital and the writings of Jawaharlal Nehru and other Indian leaders who were in the final stages of their struggle to win independence for India. Perhaps the strongest influence on Jagan was that of Janet Rosenberg, a Jewish-American woman whom he later married

His revolutionary readings and contacts that he made in the US, combined with his observation of inequalities in American society, particularly the plight of African-Americans, and the memories of his plantation upbringing to strengthen freedom from colonial rule and

He returned to Guyana in December 1943 and immediately threw himself into the freedom struggle. He had little time for existing organisations such as the British Guiana East Indian Association (BGEIA) and the Manpower Citizens Association (MPCA) and in 1946 formed his own group, the Political Action Committee (PAC), along with his wife, and Jocelyn Hubbard and Ashton

In 1947 Jagan successfully ran for a seat in the Legislative Council which was then the ruling body in the country with a British Governor as chief executive. His advocacy of the working class in the Legislative Council remains a lasting mark of Jagan's commitment and courage in opposing all odds in his pursuit of freedom and democracy.

The bulletin produced by

the PAC became Thunder, the newspaper of the People's Pro-gressive Party (PPP), formed in

1950 under Jagan's leadership. Meanwhile, as the movement for decolonisation gathered steam in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, Guyana was given universal adult suffrage for the first time in elections in 1953. In these elections the PPP won 18 out of 24 seats; but after only 133 days, the PPP-led administration was dissolved by the British Governor Sir Alfred Savage, allegedly because of the Communist dictatorship un-der the PPP. Several PPP lead-

ers including Jagan were jailed. Between 1953 and 1957 Guyana was ruled by an interim government consisting of nominated members. During this period as well the PPP split when L.F.S. Burnham, the parchairman, led his supporters to form another party that was later called the People's National Congress (PNC).

This split is perhaps the most tragic event in Jagan's career and the modern history of Guyana, for it laid the basis of



racial polarisation, by encouraging Afro-Guyanese to support the PNC and the Indo-Guyanese to support the PPP. At any rate, in new elections held in 1957 the PPP won, as it did again in 1961. But by this stage, in addition to the problems of racial division that he faced internally in Guyana, Jagan found himself denounced internationally as a Communist

agitator in cahoots with the Soviet Union

After the decline of European empires after the Second World War, there emerged a Pax Americana in which the United States regarded itself as a defender of the "free world" against a Communist threat from the Soviet Union. Jagan was caught in the middle of this Cold War conflict, and it was largely due to American influence fuelled by this tension that the British government changed the electoral system in Guyana to one of proportional representation for new elec-tions in 1964. Although Jagan's PPP won a majority of seats, two other parties, the PNC and the United Force (UF) were able to join forces and form a

Here came another lasting mark of Jagan's dedication: his resolute continuation as Opposition leader during 28 years (1964-92) despite charges of fraud, corruption and rigged

Not until 1992, at the end of Union had fragmented, and American fears of Communism had disappeared, did Jagan's PPP, this time in coalition with a community group called CIVIC, at last have an opportunity to form the government

dition to his political activism, he was the author of several books and countless pamphlets and speeches. His The West on Trial (1966) is largely autobiographical and is probably the best work of political autobiography by a Caribbean leader.

But when all is taken into ac-count - his passionate champi-oning of the underdog, his fearless opposition against all odds, and his superhuman en-

elections against the ruling ergy - what Cheddi Jagan will most be remembered for is his incorruptible integrity. Never, in the Cold War, when the Soviet his half-century of involvement in politics, has anyone been able to point a finger at him, while charges of financial corruption, sexual misconduct or electoral fraudulence have been levelled at most of his contemporaries.

Frank Birbaisingh

Iagan's contribution to his country, his region and politics Plantation Port Mourard, Bertice of decolonisation is inestimable. 22 March 1918; Member of Legislative Council, British Guiana 1947, 52 194 could scarcely be believed. In act. 1947-53, Leader of the House and Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Mines May-October 1953, Chief Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry 1957-61, Premier and Minister of Development and Planning 1961-64, Leader of the Opposi-tion, National Assembly 1964-92; President, Co-operative Republic of Guyana 1992-97; married 1943 Janet Rosenberg (one son, one daughter); died Washington DC 6 March 1997.

Wing Cdr Douglas Blackwood

Douglas Blackwood was the last member of his family to edit the distinguished Edinburghbased magazine which bore his name. A great-great-grandson of the William Blackwood who founded Blackwood's Magazine in 1817, he was editor between 1948 and 1976 and was chairman of the publishing house until 1983. He was also a naturally gifted fighter pilot who com-manded 310 Czech fighter squadron during the Battle of

In many ways Blackwood was a reluctant publisher. His name and his family relationship meant that he had little option but to follow in his father's foosteps but he always looked back with affection and pride to the short service commission he had held in the RAF between 1932 and 1938. Had it not been for the outbreak of war he would have returned to Edinburgh to work for his father and uncle who between them ran the family firm.

Blackwood rejoined the RAF in 1939 and ended the Second World War commanding the Czech Fighter Wing in the 2nd Tactical Air Force. He was decorated with the Czech War Cross and Czech Military Medal and it gave him considerable pleasure when he was presented with the Czech Medal of George of Podebrad in 1993.

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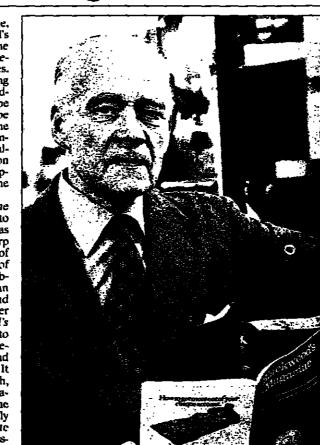
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Britain Blackwood was on patrol over London after a German air-raid and remembered looking down from 25,000 feet to see the family firm's London office in Paternoster Row, beside St Paul's Cathedral, burning furiously. Millions of books were lost in the blaze. Although

he did not realise it at the time, the destruction of Blackwood's base in the capital marked the beginning of a protracted decline in the firm's fortunes. Due to wartime paper rationing the firm lost many of its leading authors and the size of type and number of pages had to be reduced in the magazine. To the Blackwoods the system was unfair: the amount of paper al-lotted to them was based on their 1939 output which happened to be the lowest in the firm's history.

When Blackwood left the RAF in 1945 his introduction to the business of publishing was shock. Before the outbreak of war Blackwoods was one of Britain's leading literary publishers. George Eliot, John Buchan, E.M. Forster and Joseph Contrad appeared under their imprint and Blackwood's Magazine - known as "Maga" to its readers - was widely respected for its good taste and sound critical judgements. It soon became clear, though, that name and literary reputation counted for little in the post-war world. Suddenly Blackwoods had to compete with a growing number of massproduction rivals and with a declining interest in monthly literary magazines. One by one, rivals such as John Murray's At the height of the Battle of nul fell by the wayside and it was something of a triumph that "Maga" remained in production

until 1980. Although Blackwood was a kindly man who wore his learning lightly he was shy and could appear aloof or remote. Happiest in the company of military men, he never courted literary



Combill and Chambers's Jour- or political society and was quick to puncture any literary pretension. When asked by a reviewer if he had known George Orwell at Eton - he was six years his junior - Blackwood retorted, "Oh, Blair, yes I remember him, he had a motor-bicycle."

By the beginning of the 1970s Blackwoods and its magazine had a somewhat dated air and

ceeded by his assistant David Fletcher, the first and last editor not to be a member of the family. None the less, under Douglas Blackwood's control "Maga" remained a haven of good, if

and Blackwood retired from the

editorship in 1976. He was suc-

old-fashioned, literary style and its political column, "The Looker-On", offered trenchant commentary from right of cen-tre. Amongst the writers he encouraged was Leslie Gardiner, a former naval officer, who travelled extensively in the remoter parts of Eastern Europe. Nowadays his articles would be commonplace but at the height of the Cold War Gardiner was in a class of his

After Blackwood's retirement in 1983 he was succeeded by his son Michael, a former naval pilot, but by then the firm had amalgamated to concentrate on printing and one of the great names had disappeared from British publishing. In re-tirement Blackwood lived in the Scottish Borders, where he was able to indulge his love of field sports and country pursuits. His wife, Phyllis Caulcutt, whom he married in 1936 and who survives him, was a noted equestrian rider and an expert exponent of dressage.

Trevor Rovie George Douglas Blackwood, air force officer and publisher: porn 11 October 1909; managing director, William Blackwood & Sons 1948-76, chairman 1948-83; Editor, Blackwood's Magazine 1948-76; married 1936 Phyllis Caulcutt (one son, one daughter); died Edinburgh 2 March 1997.

Margaret Johns

Margaret Johns was described as "the most beautiful film producer in the world". She is best known for her awardwinning collaborations with her second husband, Ian Dawson-Shepherd, the writer and founding father of the Spastics Society (now Scope).

Her early artistic life spanned the Ballet Rambert, theatre and television acting (she grad-uated a bronze medallist from RADA), even cabaret singing, before she found her true métier. But a brilliantly promising career as a producer could not survive the combined assault of international politics, iliness, and a devastating car accident.

Johns was never conven-

tional. She lied about her age to win a place at RADA. In those days, a 25-year-old mother would not even have been considered. She successfully posed as 18, abetted by her diminutive size, her extraordi-narily youthful complexion which endured throughout her life and her (clearly) great act-ing talent. Her first husband, Peter Bartlett, and their daughter, Jennifer, stayed well away from the Academy.
After graduating, Margaret

iohns (her stage name) tried her hand at theatre, television and radio, but later claimed to have hated every minutermainly be-cause of the nervous strain of appearing in front of andiences. It never showed but major occasions, such as her appearance under Lindsay Anderson's direction in The Seagull at the Royal Court, would make her physically sick.

She was offered small parts in various films, and could always be found talking to the technicians, eager to discover the world on the other side of the camera. The passion grew and, as a parting gift, her by then es-tranged husband financed her first film, a short documentary shot in Battersea in 1955.

Many other shorts followed. with Johns travelling all over the world - the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, China and Amer-ica. In 1959, she formed her own company, Libertas, becoming the first female independent film producer in the UK.

She was both intuitively commercial, and self-confident. She believed women mostly chose the films they and their men went to see, and therefore she was more likely than a man to know



said she preferred producing, because it gave her overall control of the creative idea.

Her first success was lessy, a moving film commissioned by the National Spastics Society about a child with cerebral palsy. It won four awards at the 1961 Boston Film Festival. Johns had the idea of making the whole film through the eyes of the child herself. She found it a battle, however, to secure any public showing for Jessy. "It was impossible to find a distributor," she observed. "They all said it wasn't entertainment."

Commissioning this film for the society was Ian Dawson-Shepherd, who became Johns's business partner and collaborator (as writer) on many of her films, and also her husband and ine iainet oi ner daughters.

Together, they went on to presented by Richard Dimbleby and shown repeatedly on naonal television. Perhaps this film more than any other helped to enlighten the British public about cerebral palsy. Then came Right for the Job (1963), which brought to public attention the fact that, with appropriate train-ing, people with cerebral palsy can do many kinds of valuable industrial work.

Working with Janet Lacey on Every Eight Hours also led to a commission from the World Council of Churches to make The Tibetan Story (1962), about the plight of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule. Johns was the first Western woman to meet the Dalai Lama, who had

fled to India in 1959. It was in 1962, only six years after the Suez crisis, that Johns began work on a series of three films, including her first major feature, for the Egyptian goveroment. This was the beginning of the end of her company and

her career as a producer. After five years of work, for little or no payment, relations between the UK and the Egyptian gov-ernment had deteriorated so badly that the project was can-celled. None of the three films was completed, and in 1967 Libertas went into liquidation with huge debts.

Margaret Johns was com-

petitive, even a daredevil. She enjoyed driving fast cars and gambling, and riding was her favourite sport. She flew many thousands of miles by helicopter with camera teams on location, sometimes filming in hazardous conditions. Once. while flying through a storm in Burma, the army transport plane in which she was travel-ling ran out of fuel, forcing the pilot to crash-land. It did not put

parties to bully BBC

her off flying in the slightest. Films were her life. Only weeks before Judith, her second daughter, was born, she was out on location in India. Similarly, Andraea, her youngest daughter, was born in the middle of negotiations for the Egyptian project. The two babies went to

gypt with her on location. Who knows, then, how soon Iohns would have bounced back from bankruptcy if she had not developed osteomyelitis, a rare disease of the bone marrow (typically affecting male chil-dren), which put her into hosto be permanently confined to a wheelchair, with painful effort make Every Eight Hours (1961), she taught herself to walk again over the next 10 years. Finally mobile enough to get about on her own, in 1980 she was struck so violently by a car on a pedestrian crossing that every major bone in her body was broken. There would be no more films.

Whenever she was asked in the Sixties how it feit to be one of only three female UK film producers. Johns would claim that men like working for women. "I've never found any prejudice against me as a voman, certainly not among the technicians. Once you've had a successful film, you can work on equal terms."

Margaret Kathleen De Monte (Margaret Johns), film producer: born Murree, India 2 August 1922; married 1943 Peter Bartlen (one daughter, marriage dis-solved 1960), 1972 Ian Dawson-Shepherd (died 1996; two daughters); died Teddington, Middlesex 28 February 1997.

Len Millard

Rarely can a nickname have been as unrepresentative of a man's character as that of the footballer Len Millard, a stalwart defender with West Bromwich Albion for a dozen seasons after the Second World War. He was a quiet unassuming fellow, renowned for his gentlemanly conduct and never booked in his 476 senior games for the club, yet he was dubbed "The Agitator".

The sobriquet was coined, perhaps in a spirit of irony, because the wingers who were confronted by the ultra-dependable left-back tended to become agitated by his efficiency, which reduced them to marginal figures on the fringe of the action.

The prime example of the modest Millard's expertise was his subduing of the great Tom Finney in the FA Cup Final of 1954. It should be stressed that 'The Preston Plumber', who was the newly crowned Footballer of the Year and arguably the finest player of his generation, never became remotely agitated, which would have been alien to his own sporting nature.

William Boyd, author, 45; Mr

But Finney was starved of the ball comprehensively by the steady Millard, who was man of the match by common consent and richly deserved the honour. as Albion's captain that day, of lifting the famous trophy.

Indeed, but for a late run of defeats, due at least partially to an injury crisis. West Brow wich might have won the League Championship, too. Had they done so. Millard would have entered soccer legend as the man who skippered the first team "is century to capture the coveted

Victor (Félix-Marie) Massé, com-

League and FA Cup double. As it was, they finished as runnersup and the amiable Midlander remained an unobtrusive figure, little known outside the game. Millard had signed for the Throstles as a teenage amateur

as a result it failed to attract a

younger generation of writers

and readers. Even its head of-

fice at 45 George Street, with

its elegant oval saloon, was

more redolent of the heady

days of Walter Scott and James

Hogg than of any contemporary

literary vibrancy. Despite a

number of design changes.

"Maga" began losing readers

in 1937, then played in wartime competitions as a centreforward before converting to wing-half by the time hostilities ceased in 1945. During the subsequent decade he missed only handful of matches and helped gain promotion from the Second Division in 1949, con-

tinuing to hold a regular place in the top flight until his 39th In 1958 Millard moved to the

non-League Stafford Rangers, whom he served as manager until 1961. After that he continued to shun the limelight, working in the West Midlands until his retirement in the early 1980s. Ivan Ponting

Leonard Millard, footballer: born Coseley 7 March 1919; played for West Bromwich Albion 1937-58; died Coseley 2 March 1997.

what the public wanted. She directed some of her own films, but

Computer evidence not vitiated by faulty clock

was not such as to affect the pro-duction of the document or the

accuracy of its contents . . In July 1992 the computer clock in the Lion Intoximeter 3000 in use at Widnes Police Station was displaying a time about an hour and a quarter slow. In neither appeal was there any dispute about the correct time at which the Intoximeter was used. The Divisional Court nevertheless held that the inaccuracy of the clock reading invalidated the evidence on which both

convictions were based. Anthony Scrivener QC and Steven Everett (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown; Michael Belaff QC and Rente Calder (Byrne Frodsham & Co, Widnes) for Ms McKeown; Nigel J. Ley (Nyland & Beattle, Widnes) for

Lord Hoffmann said that section 69 did not require the prosecution to show that the statement was likely to be true. Whether it was likely to be true or not was a question of weight for the justices or jury.

All that section 69 required as a condition of the admissi-

dered as evidence of the fact

information correctly...

malfunctions did not matter:

It followed that the words "not such as to affect the production of the document or the accuracy of its contents" had to be read subject to the overall qualification that the paragraph was referring to those aspects of the document or its contents which were material to the accuracy of the statement

The justices had a certificate signed by a police sergeant under paragraph 8 of Schedule 3 to the 1984 Act stating that to the best of his knowledge and belief the requirements of section 69(1) had been comcontrary evidence, they were entitled to accept that certificate as sufficient to satisfy section 69(1).

The question then was whether they were obliged to regard the maccuracy of the clock display as contrary evidence. They also had evidence, which they were entitled to accept, that the clock display was not affecting the proper functioning of the computer in processing the information from the breath analyser. Havcomputer processed, stored or ing accepted that evidence, retrieved the information used there was nothing to displace

Pani Magrath, Barrister

261

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam: should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Whart, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) and are charged at £6.50 a line, IVAT extrat. OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing for faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a dayline telephone number.

Wills

Baroness Birk, of London W1, the journalist and politician, left estate valued at £709,477 net Geoffrey Stephen Hamilton, of Exton. Rutland, the horticultural jour-

nalist and broadcaster, left estate valued at £683.485 net. Leslie Douglas Sargent Crowther, of Bath, Avon, the actor and comediun, left estate valued at £357,302 nct. Walter Christie Steele, of Chelmsford. Essex, left estate valued at £1,188,394 net. He left £1,000 to Broomlield Hospital, Cheimsford.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Duke of York, President, attends the Annu-al Dinner of the Royal Homebold Golf Club at Touckenham Rughy Football Ground, Middle-et. Feedenham Rughy Football Ground, Middleser, The Princess Royal upons the Middlesh Engi-neering Centus in Barmingham, West Middland, but the Institution of Electrical Engineers and upons the new Dosign and Empireering Centre of the Rower Group Research Centre, Griden, Karwickshure, The Dake of Read, President, the Royal Inspitution of Great Britain, attends a dis-course great by Professor Robin Clark, of Albe-marte Street, London Wi.

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays Sir Robert Atkinson, former chairman, British Shipbuilders, 81; Mr

William Bromley-Davenport, Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, 62: Mr Maicolm Chisholm MP, 48; Mr Gilbert Cooke, former chairman, C.T. Bowring & Co. 74; Mr Michael Finnissy, composer and planist, 51: Mrs Deborah Forbes, Headmistress, Queen Anne's School, Caversham, 51; Sir Kenneth Green, Vice-Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University, 63; Sir Anthony Hidden, High Court judge, 61; Mr John Horam MP, 58; Mr Dan Jacobson, novelist, 68; Mr Nicholas Kraemer, conductor, 52; Sir Anthony Lambert, former ambassador to Portugal, 86: Sir John Latey, former High Court judge, 83; Mr Ivan Lendl, tennis player, 37; Sir Paul Nicholson, Lord-Lieutenant of Durham, 59: Lord Oliver of Avimerton, a former Lord Justice of Appeal in Ordinary, 16: Professor Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, sculptor, 73: Professor Lord Phillips of Ellesmere, molecular biophysicist, 73: Mr Piers Paul Read, novelist and author, 56: Mr Viv Richards, cricketer, 45; Mr Mark Rowland, athlete, 34; The Earl of Snowdon, photographer, 67; Sir David Spedding, Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, 54; Sir Ranulph Twistleton-Wykeham Fiennes, explorer, 53: Mr Richard Vernon, actor, 72; Miss Zena Walker, actress, 63; Dame Margaret Weston, former Director of the Science Museum, 71.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir John Frederick William Herschel, astronomer, 1792; Sir Ed-win Henry Landseer, painter, 1802; poser, 1822; Henry 'loore, marine ainter, 1831: Piet (1 leter Cornelis) Mondrigan, abstract painter, 1872: Joseph-Maurice Ravel, composer,

1875. Deaths: St Thomas Aquinas. Christian philosopher, 1274: Francesco Bartolozzi, engraver, 1815: Louis Boulanger, painter and litho-grapher, 1867; Herman J. Mankievicz, screenwriter, 1953; Percy Wondham Lewis, writer and artist 1957. On this day: France declared war on Spain, 1705: the British and Foreign Bible Society was founded, 1804; Jenny Line, the Swedish Nightingale", made her début, 1838: the first telephone was patented by Alexander Graham Bell, 1876; the first jazz record. "The Dixie Jazz Band One-step", went on sale in the United States, 1917; the transat-lantic radio-telephone was established, 1926; in London, the Victoria Underground line *as opened by the Queen, 1969; at Heathrow Airport, London, armed raiders stole E850.000 worth of diagnonds and currency, 1977. Today is the Feast Day of St Ardo, St Drausius or Drausin

Lectures

St Theophylact.

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins. Ascetics (i): R halta, The Vision of Victoria and Albert Museum: Susan Morris, "Torrigiano's Bust of Henry VII", 2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Jill Lloyd and John

St Esterwine. St Paul the Simple and

House, "Lovis Corinth: the late work", lpm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Colin Pillinger, "Messages from the Deep",

Luncheons

Ministry of Defence Mr Michael Portillo MP, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon held vesterday in Admirally Mr Andrus Oövel, Minister for De-

fence of the Republic of Estonia.

Receptions HM Covernment

Mr Anthony Nelson MP. Minister for Trade, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SWI, to promote Anglo-Japanese co-operation worldwide.

Dinners Navy Board

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, First Sea Lord, presided at the Lent Term Dianer of the Navy Board held yester-day evening at Admiralty House, London SW1. Among those present

Sie Patrick Mayben MP; Mr James Arbuth-not MP, Mr Walter Boreham; Dr David Clark MP; Mr Alex Portian; Sir Robert Fellowes; Mr Peter Gershote Mr Peter Gavita-Jone

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following, Sabbath begins in London at 5.36pm.

United Synagoguest 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagoguest 0181-292 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagoguest 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagoguest of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New Loudon Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328

McReowa; DPP v Jones; House of Lords (Lord Goff of Cheiveley Lord Mustill, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Clyde) 20 February 1997

A computer-generated statement was admissible in evidence under section 69(1) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 notwithstanding that a part of the computer, in this case its clock, appeared to be malfunctioning, so long as there was positive evidence that the computer had properly processed, stored and reproduced the information contained in the statement.

The House of Lords allowed appeals by the Director of Public Prosecution against decisions of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, on 27 May 1994, quashing convictions by the Widnes Justices of Sharon McKeown on 20 April 1993 and of Christopher Jones on 4 May 1993 for drink-driving offences. Section 69 of the 1984 Act

(1) In any proceedings, a statement in a document produced by a computer shall not be admissible as evdence of any fact stated therein unless it is shown ... (b) that at all material times the computer was opcrating properly, or if not, that any respect in which it was not operat-

LAW REPORT

ing properly or was out of operation bility of a computer-generated statement was positive evidence that the computer had properly processed, stored and reproduced whatever information it received. It was concerned with the way in which the computer had dealt with the information to generate the statement which was being ten-

which it stated. The language of section 69(1) recognised that a comin a way which was not relevant to the purpose of the exclusionary rule. It could not therefore be argued that any malfunction was sufficient to cast doubt upon the capacity of the computer to process

What then was contemplated as the distinction between a relevant and an irrelevant malfunction? There was only one possible answer. A maifunction was relevant if it affected the way in which the to generate the statement, the effect of the certificate. tendered in evidence. Other

tendered in evidence. puter might be malfunctioning plied with. In the absence of

John Major's doctrine: evade and survive

s our meat safe to eat? Let those who think politics does not matter address themselves to this question. Food hygiene regulations are a basic responsibility of the Government, and when they fail politicians must be held to account.

A report by abattoir inspectors, entitled Red Meat, found "serious cause for concern" that meat could be contaminated by E coli 0157 and salmonella. This is an important finding which mat-ters to the 19 out of 20 of us who are not (increasingly smug) vegetarians.
The finding should have mattered to the Government, which they elected to look after their interests. What happened to it? It was suppressed: expressions of concern and references to specific contaminants were removed from the report, which therefore attracted no attention.

This is outrageous. People's lives have been put at risk. Nobody can say whether any of the 18 elderly people who died in the E coli outbreak in Scotland would have lived if the original report had been published and acted upon, but the possibility is there. This. was an issue that demanded, at the very least, some humility from John Majorand Douglas Hogg yesterday. Instead, we got bluster and unconvincing attempts at self-justification. The Prime Minister accused Tony Blair of the "height of irresponsibility" in raising the issue before the agriculture minis-

ing from Mr Major, for whose government the concept of "responsibility" seems to have an idiosyncratic meaning. It must be a characteristic of any

government that it tries to avoid responsibility for things going wrong and take the credit for anything going right. The Civil Service culture of Whitehall is riddled with buck-passing. But this government has turned the evasion tendency into a doctrine.

Mr Hogg would not resign over BSE, and he will not resign now. But the record of this government on food hygiene demands a sacrifice. It was clear, even before the BSE crisis, that it was undesirable to have a single government department, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), representing the interests of both producers and consumers. Its responsibility for the farming and fishing industries should be handed to the Department of Trade and Industry, and for consumers to the Department of Health.

Mr Hogg's name is only one on a long list of Mr Major's ministers who should have gone but did not. Norman Lamont refused to take responsibility for the failure of ERM membership. William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell refused to take responsibility for bending the rules on selling arms to Iraq. Michael Howard will not take responsibility for anything that happens



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-846 2435

in prisons. Nicholas Soames says his civil servants lied to him; and this week his counterpart in the Lords, Earl Howe, said he too misled Parliament about the use of pesticides blamed for illnesses of Gulf war troops. They still have their ministerial cars, and the head of no official has rolled.

Sure, resignations after taking responsibility for mistakes have never been common. Jim Callaghan's, in 1967, over devaluation, and Lord Carrington's, in 1982, over the failure of the Foreign Office to foresee the invasion of the Falklands, stand out partly for that reason. But since John Major became

Prime Minister, no important minister has resigned voluntarily because they accepted that their department had done something wrong. "The concept of responsibility has been ... replaced by a different code: survival." That was John Smith, speaking in 1993.

This was the context of Mr Major's interview on Newsnight on Wednesday. It seemed to be promising: very much the kind of thing we have wanted to see for some time. He was reasonable, direct and positive. He refused to have a go at Tony Blair. He was

offered Jeremy Paxman a deal which marked some improvement on the doctrine of irresponsibility. He was prepared to say sorry for the cost to the taxpayer of trying to stay in the ERM if he were allowed to "accept the credit for the fact that we now have a low-inflation economy".

That would have been a fair deal if Mr Lamont had resigned as Chancellor in 1992. It might be a fair deal now if Mr Hogg is forced belatedly to take responsibility for the BSE crisis and the Red Meat affair. But in the cold light of Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons yesterday, "Honest" John reverted to slippery mode. The Red Meat report was "circulated to the people who needed to take action and I am advised by those people that they have implemented the action".

At this point, the cynic might mutter the familiar counsel of the voter who refuses to take responsibility: that politicians are all as bad as each other and there is nothing to choose between them. Wrong. At all times, the voter has a duty to weigh up the records and prospectuses of the politicians and choose the best - or the least bad.

Nobody yet knows for sure that a government led by Mr Blair would take more responsibility, although the Labour leader is on record as demanding resignations in various politely insistent about the country's circumstances which will no doubt be rency. Is £150,000 not a small price to sound economic position. And he cited if he takes over in Downing pay for a better-informed electorate?

Street. As befits an opposition politician, he has taken the high moral ground on ministerial responsibility; but he has yet to be given the opportunity to prove that this is more than a reflex posture. Let us hope that Mr Blair is building a concept of ministerial responsibility on the foundations laid by Mr Smith. his predecessor, who introduced a strongly moral language into our politics. One of the ways in which a new government may be judged is by the quality of its resignations.

Big issue, small price

You, the taxpayer, are going to pay for pro-European propaganda in the run-up to the election. Is this not disgraceful? Well, no, actually. A persistent refrain of all surveys of public opinion is: "We are not told." People feel ill-informed about the European Union, vaguely aware that all this stuff about square tomatoes and straight bananas is not quite accurate. Yet the election does represent a real and important choice on Europe. The. Tories will, as they say, never sign the Social Chapter and, as they will not say, never take Britain into a single cur-

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •



How parties try to bully the BBC

Sir: I notice that the BBC is being accused of political bias by senior politicians ("BBC under fire for assuming Blair win", 3 March).

This has occurred before general elections for at least 30 years. There is little point in picking out which of the main parties is involved; each one is equally liable. When it suits them they will "warn" the BBC, usually with some vague speculation about financial retribution after the election. When I was young it always seemed to be a "solemn warning".

The purpose of the warnings is to damage the confidence of staff and management for the short-term benefit of one of the main parties. On the whole, the BBC has learnt to live with these attacks and sometimes take courage from them, but one cannot deny that at times the assaults may have blunted its

journalistic effectiveness. The new chairman of the BBC would have every right to say that the corporation has for many years had an honourable record of reporting politics fairly. It has a well-trained and intelligent staff, with a clear understanding of its responsibilities to the public. It has studied and worked at the implementation of political impartiality for several decades and has evolved sensible techniques for

There seems no legitimate reason why those involved in the political process cannot accept the need for a vigorous, responsible and independent BBC. There is no need

for these crude and vicious attacks. Of course the BBC has to take account of complaints. I would recommend that during the coming election it recruit a body of slightly deaf pensioners to take down the political parties complaints in longhand, with a stubby pencil. JOHN GRIST Richmond, Surrey

The writer was Head of Current Affairs at BBC Television and the first supervisor of parliamentary broadcasting at Westminster

Sir: When I was on the Panorama team in 1964, we held a private poll. to discover how the commentators, directors, producers and others in what was the BBC's flagship political programme proposed to vote in the general election.

To my surprise, we were split down the middle - with a tiny majority (52 per cent) voting Conservative. In the event, of course, Harold Wilson brought in a Labour government.

Without exception we all celebrated ~ hecause it meant we could look forward to a whole new range of political and social issues to provide fodder for our investigations. Our enthusiasm could so easily, and so wrongly, have been attributed to political bias. MICHAEL BARRATT Holyport, Berkshire

Sir: As the pressure increases for the Leader of the Opposition and his likely successor to appear together on television, may I suggest that a special edition of Eurotrush would provide an ideal forum for clarifying their positions on matters such as monetary union hosted, of course, by Jean-Paul Majeur and Antoine de Blair JE LAMPER Harcham, Dorses

Sir. How dare the Ulster Unionists keep this lame-dock Conservative government in power when the

great majority of people in Britain want a general election as soon as **JHSTEWART** Hardwick, Cambridgeshire

Sir: Millions of us are utterly sickened at the waiting time for the general election. What is particularly frustrating is that if only we could afford to pay for it privately we could have it done next MARTIN SHAW

IRA suspect and her baby

Sir. In Irish politics it is never wise to create victims or martyrs. Roisin McAliskey is in poor health, in prison, and with child. The harsh treatment given to her by the British prison service has already brought protests from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and an inquiry by Members of the European Parliament.

British authorities have stated that she will not be chained to a bed while giving birth, but there has been no promise that mother and child will not be separated afterwards if both survive. At present the intention is to force a separation on grounds of security". The separation would be unjust, quite apart from the obvious inhumanity, because the child is innocent and the mother has been proved guilty of no crime. Separation would also be foolish. The birth is due in May when tension increases as the marching

season in Northern Ireland draws

near. The weakness of the United

Kingdom authorities in their

handling of trouble at Drumcree and elsewhere last July has ensured that this summer the maintenance of law and order in what is alleged to be an integral part of the realm will be even more difficult than usual. Matters should not be made worse by gratuitous ill-treatment of an incarcerated woman and her

Professor GEORGE HUXLEY Church Enstone, Oxfordshire

Time-bomb in Whitehall

Sir. You report on the Civil Service's vision for the year 2002, by which time 25 per cent of simple government transactions with the public might be carried out electronically ("Major's vision of an armchair TV revolution", 4 March). The Civil Service might like to explain first how public sector computers will cope with the Computer Millennium Problem

Under the CMP up to 90 per cent of computers will be unable to move from 31 December 1999 to 1 January 2000, and will become useless. The cost to UK business of dealing with its CMP has been estimated at up to £35bu, equivalent to I per cent of annual UK business numover. BT alone is said to be spending a figure equivalent to 5 per cent of its annual turnover in sorting out its

Given that the public sector accounts for 40 per cent of UK gross domestic product, and that government makes huge use of computers, the cost to the public sector of sorting out its CMP could easily be in the range of £10bn to

It is therefore not reassuring that in response to recent parliamentary questions asking the Government what policies are in place to deal with its CMP, the reply has been that the matter is under review. Students of the Yes Minister TV series will recognise the phrase under review" as signifying the very lowest level of activity. approximately zero.
MCFTTZPATRICK

Lib Dem rescue plan for schools

Head of Economics

Chantrey Vellacott

London WCI

Sir: I was amazed to read Diane Coyle's article claiming that Liberal Democrat plans to boost education funding by £2bn per annum would not make much difference ("Failed maths will never make the grade", 4 March). She is also wrong to imply that any of the £2bn per annum would be used to fund the National Health

Liberal Democrats are the only party to have faced up to the funding problems in our education system, but we have never pretended that £2bn extra would convert our schools and universities overnight into

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

some sort of financial utopia. What our £10bn programme for education over a parliament does allow for is the expansion of early-years education for all three- and four-year-olds whose parents want it, a massive boost to investment in books and equipment, the reduction of primary schools' class sizes to 30 pupils or less (benefiting some 1.5 million children), proper funding of special educational needs. more money for higher and further education and a start in reducing the backlog of buildings repair and maintenance work. It would make a very real difference! MALCOLM BRUCE MP

Liberal Democrat Treasury House of Commons

Health insurers neglect mothers

Sir: The choice of the Secretary of State for Health's wife to deliver her third child in an NHS hospital is highly commendable. Your article (5 March) mentions that the family has private health insurance but put its faith in the state's

healthcare system.

This is fortunate because if Mrs. Dorrell had chosen to exercise her option to have private maternity insurance does not cover women

care and delivery, she would discover that her private healthcare for the cost of normal pregnancy.

Sir: Thomas Sutcliffe (television review, 25 February) is entitled to his opinions on Channel 4's discussion programme For the Love Of ... , which questioned the truth about the Nasa moon landings.

However, as one of the participants, I have certainly not "convinced" myself that the Apollo moon landings "never took place" and neither had all of those on the

Only Caesarian section deliveries

healthcare insurance. This comes

as a great surprise to the majority of insured patients and is different

from the situation in most other

pregnancy is not an illness, but it is a major healthcare event in the

should make provision for women

to be able to exercise their choice. ROBERT FORMAN MD MRCOG

Centre for Reproductive Medicine

Moon mystery

Insurers may argue that

lives of many women. The

healthcare insurance industry

are reimbursed by private

European countries.

Medical Director

Rather, some of us question the photographs which purport to be the evidence for the moon missions. The severe unexplained anomalies in these give rise to doubt about their authenticity. This does not necessarily mean Nasa did not go to the moon, but simply that, for reasons unknown, some or all of the publicly released photographs may be studio-posed publicity shots. Either way, Nasa has a case

ANDY THOMAS East Sussex

Counties lost in mists of history

Sir: The Victoria County History project (Letters, 3 March) might have a more secure future if the county was still a meaningful

Three decades of reorganisation have left the country with a bewildering array of counties, administrative, civic, geographical, historical, judicial and postal. The new unitary authorities and the abolished county councils further complicate the picture. Maps, guidebooks, listings and the media use different definitions often erroneously and inconsistently. The Post Office, faced with public confusion, has abandoned the county in favour of flexible addressing. Many people no longer know, and will soon no longer care, in which county, if any, they live.

If we wish to preserve the counties as geographical and cultural entities we need a commonly understood definition of what they are. Perhaps the local authority associations, who support the idea of county ustories, should provide one and promote its use. OHN CUNDILL London SW15

Overwork is bad for business

Sir: Your report (4 March) about people working long hours in merchant banks in the City is merely the tip of the iceberg. Here in Britain we work longer hours than anywhere else in Europe, and both business and our families are suffering as a consequence. With 40 per cent of managers working more than 50 hours a week no wonder more than 80 million days are lost each year because of

Long hours are bad for business, bad for our children, for our families and ultimately for ourselves. In the long run the replaced by family-friendly employers who find they are better able to recruit and retain good

Businesses like to be perceived as contributing to the community, but long working hours are actively contributing to the breakdown of communities. Our message to business is to think family-friendly, and get ahead. SARAH JACKSON Joint Chief Executive Parents At Work

London EC2

Legal penalties

Sir: The trial in the football mutchrigging case was inconclusive (report. 5 March) and it looks as though the taxpayer might be asked to fund another, possibly inconclusive, trial. Would it not be cheaper and more appropriate if the lawyers decided the matter now with a penalty shoot-out? TOM MACNAMARA South Bank University London SE1

Heart problem

Sir: When Mr Major says that he wants Britain to be at the heart of Europe, does he mean as a coronary thrombosis or a pacemaker? JOHN A DAVIS Great Shelford. Cambridgeshire

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Whichever party wins the general election, there will be little money for the health service. Senior managers tell Jack O'Sullivan how they will makes cuts to match their budgets

or more than a year. Stephen Murray. In 44-year-old former Sheffield steel worker, has tried to obtain beta interferon. a revolutionary new drug, on the NHS. Designed to prevent relapse in the early stages of multiple sclerosis, it could save him from being in a wheelchair. Mr Murray knows people in Manchester who have already been pre-scribed the recently licensed treatment. So why not him, too?

The doctors keep saying "no". The NHS in his area, he has been told, cannot afford the £10,000 a year the drug costs. Mr Murray is in despair. "Évery day, my situation is deteriorating," he says. "When I started asking for the drug. I could walk a mile or more. Now I'm finding it difficult to walk 50 yards. By the time they say I can have beta interferon, it might be too late for me."

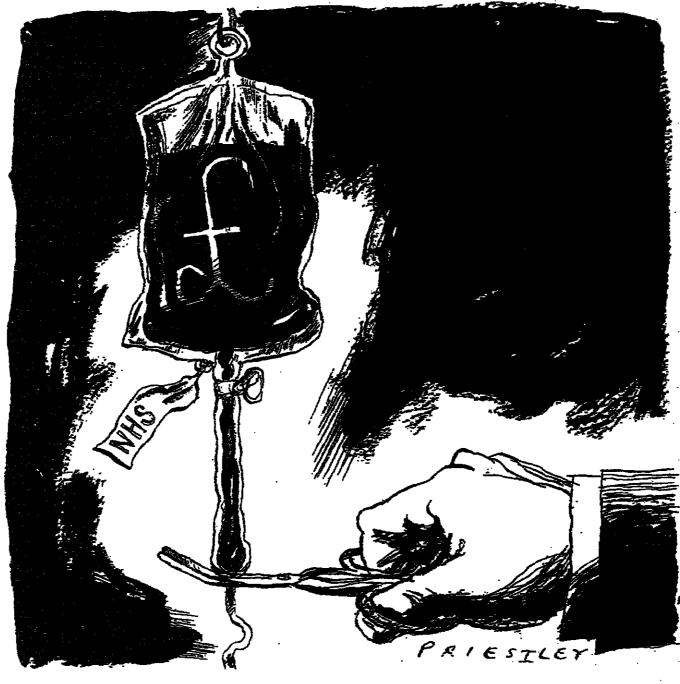
Stephen Murray's blighted life is the price of today's cash-strapped NHS, where tough choices

are being made about priorities. His dilemma could soon becoming increasingly familiar. Hidden in public spending plans accepted by all the main political parties is a well-disguised decision that NHS will be severely squeezed until the next century. That means little money will be available to fund technical and pharmaceutical advances such as beta interferon. Worse, top managers say that even existing services will have to be cut if current spending plans become reality. In short, a vote for any of the main parties means a weak-

Few of those responsible for spending NHS money will go public about their concerns, but across the country they are discussing the closure of hospitals, the lengthening of waiting times, the halting of certain kinds of treatment and the suspension of planned improvements, regardless of which party wins the general election. These are not outspoken doctors, shroud-waving for their own narrow departmental needs. These are the managers, the people who think it is their job not to complain but to make budgets work.

The problem is that the NHS - to meet the extra financial demands of an ageing population, wage increases and technical advances – is assumed to need, and has customarily received, bout 3 per cent extra every year above But, according to Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the government has budgeted for, and Labour has endorsed, negligible real growth over the next few years. At today prices, they plan to spend £33bn on the NHS in England and Wales in the year 2000, just £0.0bn more than this year. The Independent asked heads of hospital trusts and health authorities and GP fundholders - the people who control the

purse strings - how such plans would affect them. We would see a major programme of hospital closures under these spending plans," said the director of commissioning for one north London



Prognosis is grim for the NHS

health authority. "We would have to cut national programmes such as medical education and quietly reverse the new deal that reduces junior doctors' hours. The government's commitment that no-one should wait longer than 18 months for an operation would have to go. Some people would have to wait longer and those dealt with more quickly would be treated according to clin need, rather than, as now, time on the waiting list. Some people, with varicose veins, for example, would never get them treated at all.

"We would also have to be much tougher with hospitals about nailing down priorities that we wanted our money spent on. But, frankly, I don't think we have the management capacity to do that - particularly since the number of managers is going to be cut back if Labour is elected.

Alan Randall is chief executive of Worthing Hospital, near Brighton, which serves one of the largest elderly populations in Britain. He thinks the survival of smaller hospitals is threatened by

these spending plans. "People would have to travel more rather than go to outreach hospitals nearby. Locally, to raise more money, Worthing hospital would compete more vigorously for private patients so a private hospital would probably go under in this area ... It is almost inevitable that people would have to dip into their pockets for joint replacements."

Some health economists hope that a funding shortfall could be made up by squeezing NHS salaries. But managers are already having trouble recruiting staff because of low wages. "We've just recruited 35 nurses from Australia to fill the nursing gaps," says Alan Randall. And no-one thinks that Labour's war on bureaucracy would produce the necessary savings.

This threatened crisis comes against the background of a bad winter in the NHS. Earlier this year, for example, a stroke victim at St Helier hospital in Surrey waited on a trolley for 54 hours before a bed could be found for him. And there are tales of lives at risk because of delayed operations around the country. Annette Donegani of Stockport Community Health Council says, "We had a letter from a man recently who said we had saved his life. He had been told by consultants at Manchester Royal Infirmary that he needed cardiac surgery, but there was no money to pay for it. The problem was only solved when we intervened. He was taken into hospital and they operated immediately. Apparently, he was just on the brink - he had a serious life threatening condi-

Then there are all those operation cancellations which produce great inconvenience and stress. "We had another patient," says Ms Donegani, "who was

told before Christmas that her operation would be in seven months, then nine months, then 12 months; now the hospital can't tell when it will be. It isn't a life-threatening condition, but people getworked up about a date, arrange child care for the family and then at the last minute find the operation is postponed. It's terribly distressing."

t-election NHS will have to more ruthless. "We would have to consider cases such as keeping a patient on drugs for a heartlung transplant," says the finance director of a large south London hospital. "Those drugs can cost £500,000 in a year. That's a lot of hip operations. That's not a decision I could take - the Department of Health would have to take a lead."

A major rethink in services would also be equired by GPs. "We need 3 per cent extra a year because the population is getting old and there are new procedures, says Dr Eri Annesley, a GP fund holder in Keyworth, Nottingham. "I've saved as much as I can on drugs unless more people are going to pay for their own. If someone comes to me wanting beta interferon, I can't give

The message to whomever runs the Department of Health in a few months is that tough decisions will be required. And, much as the new Health Secretary might wish local areas to take responsibility for the impact of tight spending, real savings may demand clear central directives limiting services. At this rate, it looks as though Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell or his shadow Chris Smith, for all their reassuring language, are eading for a political storm.

Next week, Polly Toynbee asks Stephen Dorrell and Chris Smith to respond to the above indictment.

A case of chaos in our hospitals

n Hackney, east London, one of Britain's poorest neighbour-hoods, there was always one refuge whose doors never closed, even in the dead of night. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, a few hundred yards from a string of notorious council tower blocks, is an oasis. For 127 years it has been the destination of many dashes in the middle of the night by worried parents, nursing a feverish child. Some of the first x-rays and first operations on children were conducted here. Children's drawings cover the walls and toys litter the casualty department, which looks more like a creche than ER. Everything is geared specifically to children: there is even a teacher

for the long-stayers.

But last week the hospital's closure was announced suddenly. Only months after Queen's was given the all-clear for the next few years, a financial crisis in the local health service means it will be absorbed within a year into the Royal London, a general hospital.

The hasty demise of Queen's, leaving children's services in the area in chaos, is typical of the rapid, poorly planned clo-sures that are expected if NHS funding is squeezed after the general election in the way the main political parties are proposing. And the strong local opposition to the closure, led by Labour-run Hackney council, demonstrates the pressures Chris Smith, Labour's would-be Health Secretary, will face if his party wins the election.

Queen's was supposed to stay pen until the next century, when a new purpose-built hos-pital would have been built attached to the Royal London, is due for rebuilding. Instead,

doned wards in the Royal London. That will save £3m, just part of the £15m annual savings that the umbrella Royal Hospitals Trust must find by spring 1998.

"It's crazy that these services are moved in this helter-skelter fashion onto what is a building site in Whitechapel," says Janet Richardson of the local community health council. "If they could not see a way last October to replace the services provided at Queen's, what has changed since then, except financial pressures?

"This hospital is very impor-tant. A Bengali mother, for example, will not telephone the emergency doctor service at night because of the language problem. She'll take a minicab to Queen's, where she feels safe, because as soon as you walk through the door, it's a secure, child-friendly environment. She will not feel like this going to the Royal London."

Vanessa Wright, clinical direc-tor at Queen's and a consultant paediatric surgeon, is resigned to the move. "The financial crisis has been like a tidal wave through east London, making the sand shift beneath all our feet." She hopes that within a few years the promised new dedicated children's unit will be built. "We would like to get our hospital back." But she knows children's services face "powerful advocates from other services. We must make sure we are not short-changed." In other words, a hasty bit of panicked decision-making could result in a long-term deterioration in children's services for a deprived part of Britain, with the highest birth rate in Western Europe. Other small hospitals should watch the fate of Queen Eliza-

beth's and take note.

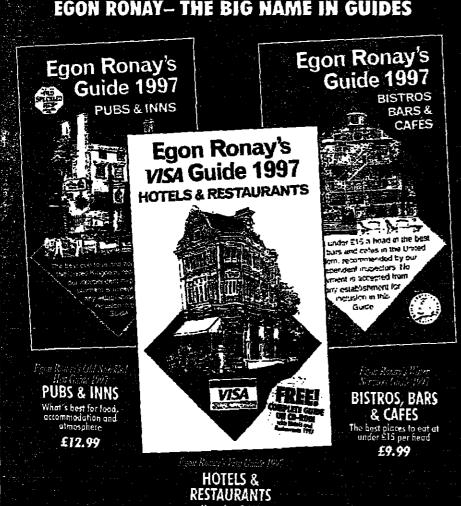


A sick child at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children Hackney, to be closed within a year Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

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One tomato, and the scare is rolling

Smith on television this week? It was absolutely revolting. But I saw it with my own eyes. Dear old Delia came on the screen, picked up a tomato and said to the TV audience, What you do is cut the top out of the tomato, like this', and then she cut the top out of the tomato, and then she said, 'What you do next is put it on your nose - and she put it on her nose, and grinned! I couldn't believe my cyes. It was quite awful."

The speaker is Ernest Druce, head of the National Health Scare Bureau, But what was so very wrong with what she was doing? "Wrong? Wrong?! Can't

you see the dangerous message she was spelling

You mean, she was wrong to tell us to put a tomato on our nose because in real life it will fall straight off again? And perhaps cause a serious accident if it rolls under a police horse's feet?

"No. no. no, no," says Emest Druce, as if he were talking to an unintelligent child or, of course, a journalist who was not very quick on the uptake, "I am lalking health hazards here. I am talking nasal infections. I am talking respiratory disease. I am saying that if we all went around putting tomatoes on our noses, we could be looking down the barrel of a major epidemic. An epidemic of what? What have epidemics got to

do with a good cause?
"It may be Comic Relief Day's job to raise money through laughter," says Ernest Druce, "but it is my job to start health scares. And when I saw Delia Smith putting a tomato on her schnozzle, a 100-watt light bulb came on in my head and I thought to myself, 'Health scare!" Why should anyone want

to start a health scare? There will always be health scares," says Ernest Druce. "Rumours will always spread, Can't stop it. But we can at least channel them and invent them. That's why the National Health Scare Bureau was set up. To make sure that health scares are always about something we

So you are spreading a rumour about Comic Relief Day?
"Oh, yes," says Ernest, "It's a natural. Everyone is a bit

fed up with the whole thing

can cure or control."

Miles Kington

anyway and is only looking for an excuse to avoid it. So immediately I put our staff on red alert, spreading rumours that nasal infections can be spread if people share the same tomato on Comic Relief Day. There are still some dangerous strains of flu around, at least there are if you believe our last-but-one health scare, and we are going out there to tell people not to put their nose in any tomato which may conceivably have been used by Delia Smith or anyone else. They just don't know what they are picking up. Plus the dangers of inhaling

tomato pips. Plus the

genetically engineered

dangers!"
The what? "Oh come on, you must have read the scares we put out last year about genetically altered fruit and veg. About how tampering with soya bean genes can endanger the whole species,"

Oh, yes, I do remember reading something ...
"Well, our message to people now is this: Don't put a tomato up your nose, for fear of acquiring a

"No, of course it couldn't.

genetically altered gene or chromosome from an American lab and altering your DNA for ever!" That couldn't happen.

But the public don't know that. People will believe anything. The great advantage of working for the National Health Scare Bureau is that we don't have to prove anything. All we have to do is spread rumours. So this week we are working on the rumour that Comic Relief is actually bad for people. Not just because of tomatoes. Because of putting anything on your nose. Those little red pingpoug balls strapped to your

conk can cause interference

to the breathing patterns which over only an hour can have serious effects. Asthma attacks. Sinus trouble.

Epilepsy ..."
Comic Relief Day can cause epilepsy?
"I'm glad you think so.
Comic Relief Day can also

cause tragic motor accidents." Through people being unable to see the road

properly on account of tomatoes on their noses? No, through fixing those dreadful red tomatoes and red splodges to the front of their cars. Did you know that a dozen people at least have been run over while in the act of fastening red noses to their front bonnets? Did you know that dozens more have needed first aid after getting their fingers trapped in their bonnets or radiators while

wiring these tomatoes on?" is that true? "I haven't the faintest idea," says Ernest Druce. Not my job to check facts. But it sounds plausible, My only job now is to start leaking this scare about killer tomatoes into the media. 'Major killer disease traced back to Delia Smith' - that sort of thing. Care to help?" . I'll do my best. -

المكذا من الأصل

If Labour wins big, what happens to the Lib Dems?

Paddy Ashdown can go off to his spring confer-ence in Cardiff this weekend in quite a satisfied mood. The pact reached with Labour on the most momentous programme of constitutional reform since women got the vote reflects especially well on the Liberal Democrats. It did not, as it might have done, look like his party being overshadowed by their political big brother.

Here was Labour going some way to meet Mr Ashdown on his own territory, being graceful about his commitment to electoral reform, and respectfully signing him up as the chief guarantor of its good intent towards Scottish devolution, a democratised London, an aristocrat-free Lords, a

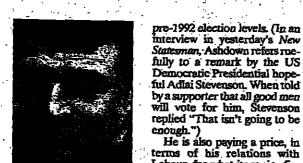
Freedom of Information Act and a Bill of Rights. They didn't get it all their way. Blair didn't commit himself to backing proportional representation in the referendam which he has promised. And the Liberal Democrats haven't buried quite as comprehensively as they merger of claim the least radical (and not genuinely proportional) option for electoral change - the alternative vote (AV) system. True, Robin Cook and Jack Straw both wanted to eliminate AV as an option - Cook because he favours a full-blooded system of PR, and Straw because be wants to maintain the status quo and

fears that AV might tempt some who would otherwise resist reform. They were happy to agree a formula which says the voters will get to choose between the status quo and a "proportional" electoral system - which Blair himself has indicated AV isn't.

This certainly makes AV highly unlikely; though not, the Labour experts insist, impossible. But that's a wrinkle. Asbdown will not be going too far if he claims on Sunday that he has helped to start a momentum for electoral change. He believes that the European elections should be by PR in 1999, that the Commission charged with coming up with an alternative electoral system for the Commons need take no more than three months to report and that a referendum could be held before the end

This is important. Now they have abandoned equidistance between the two main parties and problems explaining what the Liberal Democrats are for. This weekend, he will stress some. of the differences between his party and Labour beyond their well worked-out environmental policies unveiled yesterday. Having been rather vague in the past about the extra 1p in the pound tax rise to improve education, Mr Ashdown will spell out that this would cost the average taxpayer about 45p a week extra. He will also detail what that would buy in education spending for example, in equipment and books for pri-

mary schools. He will also attack what he sees as a creeping "moral authoritarianism". Explicitly, this is directed at the Tories and Michael Howard. can also differentiate himself from Blair. It isn't clear that being bolder on income tax or more liberal on crime than Blair is exactly helping to lift his party's popularity, still trailing below its



Donald Macintyre

icy from spokesmen below the level of the two Liberal Democrat politicians Blair most admires - Ashdown himself and Blair and Menzies Campbell. This is so much the case that in the Ashdown increasingly byzantine continagree on many things, but not all. Yet a

the two

parties is

possible

gency planning for a TV debate between the party leaders, Labour are not going out of their way to fight Ashdown's corner in seeking equal air time. So there are limits to co-operation, but that may be worth it to preserve the distinctive identity which Ashdown needs to fight a national campaign.
But is this for always? Ashdown has managed to maintain a separate brand mage poll ratings may not be spectac-ular but the fact that its vote in the Wirral wasn't squeezed

pre-1992 election levels. (In an interview in yesterday's New Statesman, Ashdown refers rue-

fully to a remark by the US

ful Adlai Stevenson. When told

by a supporter that all good men will vote for him, Stevenson replied "That isn't going to be

Labour, for what its senior fig-

ures continue to complain are

carping public criticisms on pol-

mocratic Presidential hope-

that its support isn't going to implode. The real identity crisis is much longer term. The party's elder statesman, Lord Jenkins, was misreported as having called for a merger in a speech last Saturday. He did no such thing, and even if he had, every senior Lib Dem has

below four percent confirms

ruled out the idea. What's more, Ashdown is entitled first to say that Blair's politics remain an unfinished canvas - with the Labour leader both reassuring voters that he is safe and allies that he will be more radical than they think - and second that there is a ideological distinction between the social democrane roots of New Labour and the Liberal traditions of his own party. (Even though his party contains quite a lot of erstwhile social democrats whom Labour would like to hoover

up if they could). Suppose Labour gets a landshide, Ashdown said yesterday his party would sit happily on the opposition benches. But to what end? Suppose also that Blair's law and order policy, perhaps even his Home Secretary, is not quite as dictates it is. Suppose that savings elsewhere result in increased education spending at a level to dwarf anything which Ashdown is offering. Suppose that Blair becomes as environmentalist after the election as Ashdown is now. Suppose, above all, that Blair succeeds in projecting himself less as a social democrat than the inheritor of 19th-century liberalism, a coalition of interests on the centre and left, but non-corporatist, business friendly and less alienated from the establishment than previous Labour governments . Then, as the writer Ian Buruma has put it, we would be "on the threshold of a neo-Gladstonian age". Does the equation change? Not immediately. Not perhaps even

Young heroes know the form, and smash it

ence between a DJ and a Tory their mouths off but only one of them gets fired. Danny Baker joins the ranks of Chris Evans and Chris Morris in being dismissed by their employer for overstepping the lines on taste and decency. Noel Edmonds, Jim Davidson and Eamonn Holmes should also be banned from broadcasting on the grounds of taste. Mine. Unfortunately, my definition of what is truly obnoxious differs from the BBC's whose unwritten laws include not wishing terminal illness on a football club's directors, telling callers to shut up or urging fans to picket the home of a referee. You may, it appears, be controversial and humorous but not insulting. You may rant but not rave. You must have a larger-than-life personality that attracts huge audiences, but you must still adhere to BBC guidelines.

It is not worth shedding any tears for the likes of Evans (Chris) and Baker - they will find other employment and they both boast about how much money they earn. These bad boys are no more than rebels without a clause, a clause in their contracts that guarantees their genius/megalomania free rein. Yet their hiring and firing tells us something abut our deregulated culture, about what happens when the centre no longer holds.

We talk of deregulation often in purely financial rather than cultural terms. This is why the ternalism of the BBC, rooted in a past that at least pretended a consensus around notions of taste and fair play, is simply unable to cope when such a consensus breaks down. For it has broken down. Audiences have fragmented with more choices than ever before. We have not only more channels but more TV sets, more radios: and we don't often watch with mother these days.

The deference of previous generations has been replaced by a healthy irreverence which reveals a fundamental distrust of those in authority. Baker railed against the football establishment with constant swipes at his fellow broadcaster David Mellor, "the sort of bloke who has never paid to watch a game of football in his life". Baker claims his sin is being "too real": Evans was always slagging off his BBC bosses on air. They flaunt their ordinariness, and their wealth - thus breaking a cardinal rule of celebrity. They are paid for their lack of hypocrisy.

Indeed the likes of Baker

and Evans are great demysti-fiers of the broadcasting media, constantly referring to produc-



You must have a larger-than-life personality that attracts huge audiences, but you must still adhere to the BBC guidelines

invisible paraphernalia of broadcasting. In the Seventies we would have described what they do as "deconstruction" and insisted that such Brechtian strategies as revealing "the processes of production" were in themselves radical.

Nowadays though you can't move for television eating itself in front of you. Even the disembodied voices of the Channel Four continuity announcers have been revealed as belonging to people sitting in studios with headphones on. The Bob Mills Show demonstrates that what goes on behind the scenes of a chart show is much more interesting than the show itself. Deconstruction for its own sake then, authoritative but idiosyncratic

ers, scriptwriters, cameras, is hardly radical (and least so presenter strides around as a microphones, all the formerly when done by gobby guys who repository of truth - Andrew think themselves far more charming than they actually are) but it has altered what used to be called "the grammar" of

Graham-Dixon, Howard Jacob-

son, Jonathan Meades, Men

strangely enough seem to have

cornered both the big mouth

and the big brain market. Women get *The Girlic Show*.

a sad but blatant attempt to

appeal to the youth market.

Everybody wants some "yool".

everyone in the media wants to

make products that young peo-

ple feel are theirs, which no one

else understands. How is this to

be done with no swearing, smok-

ing, sex or drugs? Well, it can t

The Girlie Show, I'm afraid, is

broadcasting. The antics of an Evans or a Baker may take apart the medium but this is not done for any larger purpose than the presenter's ego. Nor should we forget that they are broadcasting to the camcorder generation. to punters who are not scared of what comes out of screens because they know how it goes in, for whom not much is sacred.

What was daring becomes just another style - Zoo TV and in reaction broadcasters start seeking authored documentaries, in which some

having to answer the question Mummy, what does the F stand for in T.F.I. Fridays?

Youth culture has actually been going quite a long time, and it must post a continual threat if it to be credible. It is a sign of how conservative rather than how liberal we are that swearing is considered so shocking. Evans has been constantly reprimanded for swearing on air, many stand-up comics rely on getting a laugh just by saying the word "Shag". None of this brings about the collapse of the Western World because much of it relentlessly laddish. It's about having a laugh rather than making a point. It is anti-authority but apolitical. It is about not sucking up to bosses, chiefs, the establishment. It is about being rude not radical.

The BBC cannot buy in this spirited chippiness and then balk when it crosses over the very lines that its target audience does not care about anyway. By sacking Baker and Evans, it turns them into heroic defenders of freedom. The freedom to be what? A mouthy bloke. An ugly bloke with a talent, as Chris Evans

might say? Yet for all the fuss, the only mavericks I've seen on screen recently have been Chris Morris who is some kind of god, Mrs Merton trying to locate "Charlie" for those backstage at the Brit awards and Homer Simpson. The surprise is not how out of control broadcasting is but how so many of the conventions stay intact. Without them of course Morris could not shine. He could not satirise the pomposity of current affairs, the arrogance of the Buerks and Paxmans, he could not discuss morality in terms of "good Aids" and "bad Aids", he could not inform us that Noel Edmonds is a murderer, he could not show businessmen injecting "illegal high drugs" cussing a new line of jam. He

He constructs programmes about other programmes. He needs to continually overstep the line to show us how mean ingless the lines are. If the BBC can't tolerate them, such broadcasters will easily find other homes. If audiences don't like it, they can switch to something more to their taste. That's what a deregulated market means and in such a world loose cannons are not just guns for hire. but the biggest guns of all.

Ireland's message for the Pope

President Mary Robinson visits the Vatican - not an easy day for the pontiff. By Mary Condren

resident Mary Robinson's mothers and legal equal-meeting in Rome with Pope ity in marital status. John Paul II tomorrow is a historic occasion. The last time a female head of Ireland, Elizabeth I, came in direct contact with the Pope, she was excommunicated. The parallels are striking, but so too are the contrasts.

Elizabeth I was sovereign head of a country at the forefront of a major challenge to the power of Rome: England. Robinson is head of an Irish republic where sovereignty resides in the people. As the people's representative, President Robinson will have a numher of key questions on her mind, and the Pope's response could be crucial.

The Pope will no doubt wish to raise some current Irish issues: the dangers of a new Education Bill, the Divorce Act, the widespread availability of contraception, and abortion information. But given Robinson's stature and courage, nobody should be under any illusion that this will be

a one-way conversation.
It is said that one of the patron saints of Ireland, St Brigit, stood at several thresholds of Irish life: the old and new, rich and poor. She mediated between these traditions, and both she and her successors, the abbesses of Kildare, were known as those who "turned back the streams of war".

President Robinson stands in that great tradition of Irish womanhood, not through ecclesiastical endorsement, but by virtue of her intelligence, compassion, and commitment. She is a feminist in the best sense of the word, and for many years she was a lime voice in the legal profession championing the cause of women over acress to contraception, rights for as current victims. A recent court deciminorities, social provisions for single

Ireland had little truck with Elizabeth's 16th cenuny Reformation. Given

its political and social history, the country was best served by maintaining its alliance with the one European institution potentially capable of challenging colonial England: the Roman Catholic Church Irish Catholicism has been profoundly shaped by colonial history, especially following the disastrous famines of the mid-19th century. The subsequent "devotional revolution" gave rise to a tions to religious life, sexually repressive practices. and a piety born of despair rather than hope.

Now secular control of education, legalised div-orce, access to contracepagenda, and some have

been achieved. The number of religious vocations is declining rapidly, church attendance is falling clerical scandals and reports of child abuse in religious-run institutions have shattered ordinary Catholics and undermined the triumphalism of the cleri-

cal establishment. This has thrown wide open the question of abuse and violence in the home. Agencies are now besieged by adult survivors of such abuse as well sion allowed three women to open the



question of their father's abuse 30 years ago. The dam has burst, and no amount of wishful thinking or repression will stem the tide. Irish Catholicism is being forced to search deeply

ireland's executive power structure

into its hitherto innocent heart. James Joyce, on going into exile, declared that he went forth "to forge in the smithy of my own soul the uncreated conscience of my race. Rob-inson stayed home and did just that She has attempted to develop a new Irish identity: phrases such as "the island of Ireland", are carefully chosen

to transcend old political stalemates, and to encourage all Irish people to live together in

In the tradition of the Jewish and Christian prophets before her, Robinson calls for "mercy and not sacrifice". In her work as a lawyer she will have seen too many women sacrificed to maintain the façade of self-righteousness and innocence of a fading Ireland. Under her influence, whatever Irish identity will be forged will not be sac-rificially achieved: that is to say, it will not be at someone else's expense.

Over the past 30 years three thousand people have died violent deaths and countless thousands have been maimed, blinded, and bereaved in parts of Ireland. This violence is at least underpinned, if not caused, by religious sectarianism. No self-respecting politician in Ireland can ignore the substantive question that will lie behind this historic meeting:

Can the unique position of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, and in particular the enshrinement of its moral codes into the law of the land, any longer be sustained? The Pope may well wish this to be the case, but the vast majority of ordinary Irish Catholics now deem otherwise.

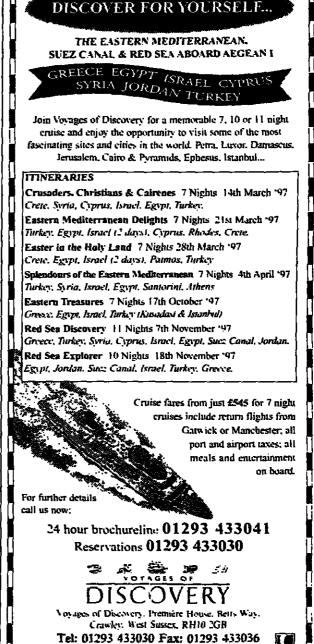
Behind this question lies another. The Catholic church in Ireland has traditionally enjoyed constitutional protection. In a multicultural society, this is no longer tenable. The question is thus; is the future of Irish Catholicism contingent upon maintaining its traditional legal safeguards, or can Irish Catholics be trusted with preserving the best features of a faith that has served them well without petrifying that faith, and without the legal safeguards hitherto afforded to them by the constitution?

In essence, that will be the question to be posed by President Robinson to the Roman pontiff. Although the President has no executive powers, the Pope is under no illusion as to her moral and spiritual influence in Ireland - influence that possibly surpasses that of the executive power structure. Her message to the Pope might be as follows: if Catholicism is not part of the solution, then it may be part of the problem. The choices are stark.

Traditionally, Irish Catholic mothers could have been counted on to pass on the Catholic faith, However, in the light of Ireland's political and social history, where children have been sacrificed to maintain a façade, and where political violence is underpinned by sacrificial motifs, many are now simply turning away in search of a life-giving spirituality - one that will serve to empower their search for new ways of living with integrity.
Once content to act as handmaids of

the Church, Irish women are demanding a voice and, in some cases, full ministerial authority. One of the last straws grasped at by St Thomas Aquinas to refuse priestly ordination to women was that women (like slaves) could "not sig-nify eminence". President Robinson is proof that they can, and a compelling example of why they must.

The writer is director of the Institute for Feminism and Religion, and author of 'The Serpent and the Goddess: women,



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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Glaxo calms fears over loss of Zantac patent

Magnus Grimond

Glaxo Wellcome, the UK's biggest drugs group, yesterday moved to allay City fears about its future after its best-selling Zantac anti-ulcer drug loses partial patent protection in the

Sir Richard Sykes, the chief executive who will take over the chairmanship in May, warned that sales of Zantac, just under a quarter of the group total last

year, could plunge by as much as 80 per cent after the patent expires in July.

But in a clear message to analysis who have suggested earnings at the group could go into reverse, he said he expected turnover growth to be back up in double-digit percentages by 1999, while earnings would be "at least maintained" over the next two years.

Products introduced since

overtaking Zantac for the first time, Sir Richard said. "Sales of new products give us confidence as we go forward into 1997 and 1998, which will be tough years. Even under the worst-case scenario for that business, we can grow the business in low single-digit numbers and once we get through 1998, we have confidence we can

grow in double digits." The outcome of Glaxo's ap-1990 hit sales of £2bn last year, peal against a US court ruling

allowing rival drugs group Novopharm to sell a generic form of Zantac is expected shortly. Sir Richard said Glaxo would announce strategies for dealing with the competition. which would only hit around 10 per cent of the group's sales, by

The shares, which initially dipped 28.5p yesterday, ended 14p ahead at £10.49. One analyst said for the first time the company had looked

point at Glaxo in that the stock market may now start to focus on life beyond Zantac."

Steve Plag at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the stockbrokers, said sales growth excluding Zantac was 14 per cent last year, led by products introduced since 1990. Between now and the end of the century, the company would launch anoth-

over to the other side of the Zantac chasm: "Today could mark an important turning very tough year, but by 1999, this company is going to look very, very different." Sir Richard's comments came

as Glaxo Wellcome announced pre-tax profits of £2.96bn for last year, 18 per cent ahead of the figure for the 12 months to December 1995, excluding the costs of integrating Wellcome. The results covered the first full year since the £9bn acquisition

of the drugs group. John Coombe, Glazo finance director, said the integration was "bang on target", delivering £150m of savings last year. Most of the 7,500 planned cut in the combined groups' workforce had been achieved, and the focus was moving from research and development activities to manufacturing operations.

Glaxo said sales of anti-HIV products more than doubled to £500m last year.

Nomura claims Tokyo directors 'siphoned funds'

Jill Treanor Banking Correspondent

Nomura Securities, the giant Japanese stockbroking company, vesterday added its name to the ever lengthening list of financial scandals by announcing that it suspected that two of its directors in Tokyo had been conducting unauthorised trades to the benefit of a client's account.

There were reports in Tokyo vesterday that millions of yen had been deposited in the account of the client, which allegedly was linked with a sokaiya - a general term for a racketeering operation.
The announcement was

made after the Tokyo market had closed, but the shock of the scandal was felt in London where shares in Nomura, by far the biggest broker in the world, plunged by 9 per cent during the course of the day.

Nomura levelled the accusa-

tions against the two directors. who have not been named, after concluding an internal investigation into the transactions. Japanese regulatory bodies have also being conducting their own investigations for months.

The company refused to give out details of the directors, and it is unclear whether they have been suspended with some reports from Japan saying they were still in their posts. It is known, however, that one of the directors is from Nomura's general affairs department and the other is responsible for stock

Reporters in Japan have been pursuing rumours about a financial scandal at Nomura for several months. Recent reports approval and against the Secuhave stated that the Securities rities and Exchange Law.

and Exchange Surveillance Commission, one of the Japanese regulatory bodies, had begun its investigation after suspecting Nomura had reimbursed huge sums of money to a Tokyo-based investor to make up for losses incurred through futures trading in Singapore.

Blackmailing of companies by sokaiva has been going on for years. It became so endemic in the 1980s when sokaiya threat-

∠ We found three transactions that were clearly suspicious 9

ened to disrupt annual general meetings, that Japanese companies were forced to take evasive action and agreed to hold all their meetings on the same day to reduce the possibility of disruption at their agms.

Atsushi Saito, a vice-president at Nomura in Tokyo, could not confirm vesterday that there was involvement by sokaiva.

Speaking in Tokyo, he said that the two directors appeared to have transferred profits raised from Nomura's own accounts to a customer's account which had been set up in early 1993. These transactions, the size of which was not disclosed, had been "discretionary", made without

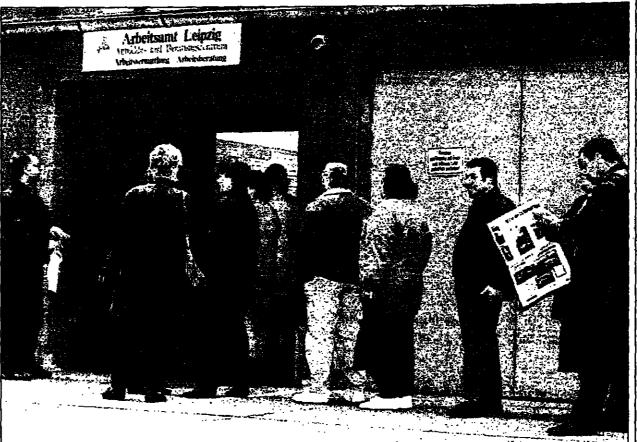
Nomura began its own inves-tigation at the start of the year and passed on the findings to the Japanese regulators. Not until the regulators have completed their examination of the transactions will further details of the case be released. Nomura said.

Nomura said its internal investigation "appears to indicate that, quite regrettably, there is a possibility that some of the transactions investigated did not fully comply with our code of conduct". As such, the transactions could be considered discretionary and prohibited by law.
"We found three transactions that were clearly suspi-

cious," Mr Saito said. This is the second time that Nomura has grabbed the headlines for the wrong reasons. The announcement vesterday comes soon after market manipulation allegations against its London-based Nomura International operation by Australian regulators.

The Australian Securities Commission (ASC) is accusing Nomura International in the Australian Federal Court of several charges of market manipulation related to trading ac-tivities in March 1996. Nomura International is denying any wrongdoing in connection with the stock index arbitrage trades in Sydney that involved simultaneous buying and selling of shares and futures contracts.

The transactions referred to in the ASC allegations were legitimate stock index arbitrage transactions and took place in March 1996. They did not or will not, have any adverse impact on Nomura's financial performance," Nomura International said in London.



Rising numbers: A queue outside an employment exchange in Leipzig east Germany yesterday

German dole queue tops 4.3m

Imre Karacs Yvette Cooper

German unemployment rose slightly last month to set another post-war record, but analysts said the jobless rate had now peaked. According to figures released yesterday by the Federal Labour Office, seasonally adjusted unemployment rose by 5,000 in February, reaching 4.316 million. The tiny increase did not affect the adjusted jobless rate of 11.3 per cent.

Latest indicators suggest that the winter "growth pause" in German economic activity is coming to an end raising expectations that EMU will go ahead on time. High unemploy-ment, pushing up public spend-

ing and pressurising tax revenues, is hindering the German government's ability to meet the Maastricht criteria of government borrowing below 3 per cent of GDP and government the previous month had been in debt below 60 per cent of GDP. But Gernot Nerb, economist at Salomon Brothers in London, said: "The growth outlook has improved and the government should find a way to come close to EMU targets.

Bernhard Jagoda, the Labour Office president, said he expected a slight decline in the unemployment figures in March. "In non-construction manufacturing areas, the rise in unemployment was noticeably smaller than overall." Mr Jagoda said. "This could mean that the worst is over in job losses in the manufacturing sector."

is being matched by rising cap-Nevertheless, the failure of the construction industry to pick ital investment. According to the German up, despite the mild weather in Chambers of Commerce and In-dustry (DIHT), which also un-February, was a disappointment. Most of the 500,000 jobs lost in

the previous month had been in

yesterday, growth will not be as so far not started rehiring, and strong as the government anremains stagnant, especially in ticipates. The DIHT expects the the formerly booming east. economy to expand by 2 per Orders are on the rise, up by cent this year, half a per cent 2.4 per cent in January, acbelow official predictions. Of the 25,000 German firms surcording to figures released yesterday. Although the consumer veyed, only 19 per cent want to crease their investments in market remained stagnant, or-Germany, and most of those will ders for capital goods shot up by 10.1 per cent, suggesting be aimed at rationalisation - a the economy is about to turn the corner. Boosted by the low value of the German mark, foreign demand for German

euphemism for redundancies. That will trouble the government, which has pledged to halve the number of jobless by 2000, but not as much as economic underperformance.

veiled its economic forecast

share of UK car market plunges

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Ford's

Ford's British strategy was dealt a further blow yesterday with statistics showing the company's share of the UK car market plunged to little more than 16 per cent last month, one of its owest market share figures for decades.

The sales data, from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, was last night being interpreted as further evi-dence of Ford's shift in policy towards the UK, where it has been market leader since it overtook British Leyland in the

In February Ford registered 26,753 cars in Britain, giving it 16.4 per cent of the market, compared with sales of 33,564 in the same month in 1996. yielding a 21.1 per cent slice of the market. Sales of the Escort and Fiesta, which have traditionally vied for top sales spot, were particularly disappoint-ing beaten into third and fourth places in the league table by the Vauxhall Astra. Sales of the Es-

cort nosedived by 50 per cent. Jay Nagley, a motor industry consultant from marketing consultants Quandrangle, said: The Escort has been heavily incentivised to encourage buyers since 1991 and it seems Ford is now pulling back on special of-fers and this is hitting the model particularly bard.

The winners in last month's figures were yet again conti-nental and Japanese brands, which industry analysts have argued are more appealing in marketing terms to consumers The market share for both Renault and Peugeot surged by 1 percentage point to 8.2 per cent and 8.5 per cent respec-tively. Meanwhile the market shares of Vauxhall and Rover both slipped back slightly.

The dire figures for Ford

follow a bad month in January and mean that in the first two overall market share has fallen to less than 18.2 per cent. Last year Ford dropped below 20 per cent of the British market for the first time for decades while its European operations sank into losses of £280m, with the UK blamed as one of the main drains on cash. The poor showing for the Escort will come as a blow to workers at Ford's Halewood plant on Mersey-side, which manufactures the model, where 1.300 job losses Comment, page 21 have been announced.

Railtrack and freight lobby clash over £16bn plan Randeep Ramesh

Transport Correspondent

Railtrack's spending plans have come under attack from freight operators who describe the commitments as "extremely

disappointing".

Despite Railtrack's pledge to spend more than £4m a day for the next 10 years on Britain's rail network, freight operators were dismayed by the "lack of detail" in the company's plans. Lord Berkeley, the chairman

of the Rail Freight Group which represents 150 freight operators, complained in a letter to the Rail Regulator that Railtrack's forecasts gave "little technical information and contained virtually nothing of interest to the industry. This offers no reassurance that Railtrack is planning ahead for

Operators say that Railtrack's predictions of rail freight growth are too pessimistic. The

13416.36

traffic to grow by 2 per cent a nel and the ports could add 60

This flies in the face of analysis by English Welsh & Scottish. the largest rail freight company in Britain, which calculates that traffic will treble in the next decade. The industry lobby also points out that the Channel Tun-

The Government last night completed

the sale of one of the few remaining bits

of British Rail, selling its parts business,

Railpart, to the automotive parts group Uni-

270, Railpart has a turnover of £237m sup-

plying traction and rolling-stock parts for

Based in Doncaster and with a staff of

senger and freight trains. It made a

John Neil, Unipart's chief executive, who

led the company's privatisation from BL in the 1980s, pledged to expand Railpart's

3417.60 2253.36 1.46†

Source: FT Information

part for an undisclosed sum.

£9.3m profit in 1995.

trains a day to the West Coast

A spokeswoman for Railtrack said the company's forecasts were a "realistic view of the railways". The company said it was planning a large-capacity freight route from the Channel Tunnel

to Scotland that, if realised, could add 15 billion tonnesmiles to the network by 2007.

Freight operators also claim that Railtrack has failed to provide a list of capacity con-strained routes. "We are strained routes. surprised that Railtrack ap-pears to be saying that it will

Railpart supplies and repairs a range of parts, from whole power units to brake pads,

hoses and brushes. Its sale had been due

to be completed by the end of last year but

was held up by haggling over price.

The deal, financed by Royal Bank of

Scotland and the Intermediate Capital

Group, is Unipart's second foray into the

Earlier this year it backed the manage

ment buyout of National Railway Supplies

(NRS), which services, repairs and dis-

tributes products such as signalling and

telecommunications equipment. NRS also runs the BR memorabilia shop next to

privatised rail industry.

Euston station in London.

only identify bottlenecks when trains start being delayed," said Lord Berkeley

The Rail Regulator's office said it had received the letter but would not comment for several days. "We will take these concerns into account when we publish our response to Rail-

Unipart buys British Rail's part business to draw on the pool of Unipart group experience and competencies to bring increasingly high levels of service to customers," Mr Neil said. He added that together with NRS. Unipart believed it could bring sub-

> John Clayton, the former director of Unipart's Jaguar and London Taxis International husiness, has been appointed managing director of Railpart. The Railpart deal virtually completes the

fragmentation and sale of BR into more than 80 different businesses. Last month the Government sold the last of the 25 passenger rail franchises.

stantial benefits to the rail industry.

track's proposals," said a

goods leapt in the same month

by 7.3 per cent. A surprisingly

sharp rise in business confidence

The freight industry is unlikely to be satisfied with anything but a severe reappraisal of the £16bn spending plans. "It is clear that Railtrack's view on freight investment is that, if anyone wants it, the Government or the customer must pay for most if not all of the costs,"

wrote Lord Berkeley. This is not the first time the freight lobby and Railtrack have clashed. In November last year the industry accused the track and signalling company of hiking up by 300 per cent the costs of the innovative "piggy-back" project, designed to carry lorry units on the railways.

Railtrack also faces criticism from operators using track and signalling outside Euston station in London. Last year, the company was given 12 months to improve track conditions after a derailment. Railtrack failed to meet the deadline and has received a month's extension.

Energy Group set for \$100m US takeover

Michael Harrison

Energy Group, the electricity and coal producer demerged from Hanson last month, is set to make its first significant investment, paying up to \$100m (£62m) for a US power mar-

keting company.

The deal, due to be unveiled next week, is one of several acquisitions being examined by the group, which consists of the regional electricity company Eastern and Peabody of the US, the world's largest coal producer. The US company that Eastern is taking over is based in

Boston and acts as a wholesaler of electricity, matching generators with buyers of power. The deal has been constructed as an earn-out, allowing the company's current owners to maximise their profits from the sale. Energy Group's initial outlay is expected to be about \$60m but this could rise to as

much as \$100m depending on the financial performance of the business in future years. When Energy Group outlined its strategy following the demerger, it said a number of its investments could prove to be "significant", raising fears

among investors that it was about to strain its balance sheet by embarking on a spending spree in the US. But Derek Bonham, Energy

Group's executive citairman was quick to reassure investors sumers to shop around. that it was only planning smaller-scale acquisitions in

by John Devaney, chief execu- ther stages.

tive, is also looking at buying further generating capacity. As well as being the country's biggest regional electricity company, with 3 million customers. it is also the fourth biggest electricity generator with about 10 per cent of total capacity, having bought coal-fired power stations from National Power

and PowerGen
However, Mr Devaney has
made it clear that the biggest expansion is likely to be into the liberalised gas market. Eastern Natural Gas is already the country's second biggest gas shipper after British Gas and is involved in all three trial areas where the domestic gas market is being opened up to compe-tition, including Kent and Sussex where 900,000 households will be able to chose their supplier from today.

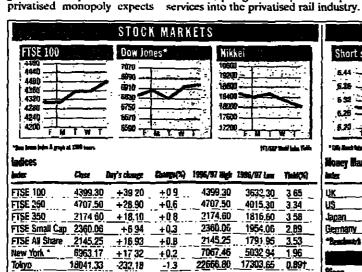
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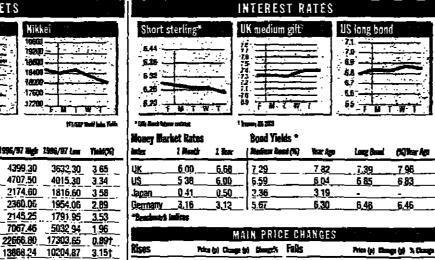
In domestic electricity supply, Eastern is likely to use its own brand name to expand into other areas of the country rather than linking up with retailers such as supermarket groups once the market is opened to competition from

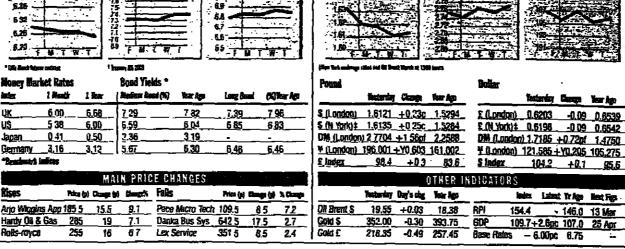
April next year. The electricity regulator, Stephen Littlechild of Offer, has announced that competition will be phased in over six months to give the industry time to bed down the very complex computer system needed to enable Britain's 20 million con-

The plan is to begin trials among 2 million households next April, building up to cover In the UK, Eastern, headed the entire country in three fur-



_+5.60





CURRENCIES



'Harriet Harman and her team don't like what the Conservatives want to do. So what does Labour propose instead? Leave the present system unchanged seems to

be the answer

Labour is not tackling the basic pension problem

We now know what the Conservatives plan to do about pensions. The more important question, however, is what Labour proposes, for unless there is an extraordinary turnaround, they will be forming the next gov ernment. The straight answer, unfortunately. is that Labour doesn't yet know, or at least is rather vague about it, the excuse being that any pensions policy will be such a long-term ig that cross-party consensus should first

be built around any proposed reform. Actually, this is so much stuff and nonsense for pensions and other forms of social secu-nty must be one of the few remaining areas of public policy where it should be possible still to see clear blue water between the two main parties. Hardly anything separates them on the economy, no one disagrees much about law and order, both are committed to the National Health Service and on Europe Labour is as divided as the Conservatives (though better at keeping quiet about it). Are we all going to agree about pensions too?

To be fair on Harriet Harman and ber team, they are at least clear on one thing; they don't like what the Conservatives want to do. So what does Labour propose instead? Leave the present system unchanged seems to be the answer. This actually isn't such a bad approach as it might seem, for it is a myth that we cannot afford the present arrangements. The fact of the matter is that the level of benefit they promise is so mean that even on present demographic trends, they are easily affordable. Furthermore, the

transition to Mr Lilley's funded basic state pension brings with it a high medium-term cost, which will mean higher taxes or greater public borrowing for a generation or more. The eventual savings claimed by Mr Lilley are also questionable.

None the less, at least the Conservatives are trying to address the problem of how to provide a decent basic pension for all; Labour is not. There is, however, a basic flaw in Mr Lilley's plans, which is that although they promise an eventual level of benefit three-times higher than the present state pension, it is still not enough to live on. As argued here yesterday, the obvious solution is to abolish the state pension for

newcomers to the jobs market altogether and introduce a larger element of compulsory saving than exists through present National Insurance arrangements. In a sense, this is only a more radical version of what Mr Lilley is already proposing, with the added advantage that it carries no cost to the present generation of tax payers.

The irony of it is that Labour would actually find such an approach politically easier to sell to the electorate than the Conservatives.

Our perception and reality gap with Japan

For the past two weeks Britain's man in Japan, Sir David Wright, has been pounding the rubber chicken circuit, persuading

businesses here to export more over there. With the Japanese economy still barely off the canvas and sterling having appreciated by 20 per cent against the yen since last August, the Ambassador has picked a chal-lenging moment to spread the gospel.

To be fair, things are moving in the right direction. Opportunity Japan, Priority Japan and now the Government's latest snazzy campaign, Action Japan, have tripled our exports since 1987 to £4.3bn and the target for next year is £5bn. Unfortunately, imports have risen too - due in part, ironically, to the vast amounts of capital equipment the Japanese have hauled over here so they can manu-facture locally and hence curb their yawning trade surplus. The net result is that the deficit n goods remains stubbornly high.

What can be done to rectify this? Sir David, an energetic fellow and an old Japan hand, reckons that to close the trade gap we need first to close the gap between perception and reality. Outside the Euro-pean Union and the US, Japan is our piggest export market and it is not just because of their liking for Scotch and Burberry coats. Two thirds of all our exports

are industrial goods.

And yet a widespread assumption remains that Japan is a closed market. Increasingly, this is no longer the case. It may be unfamiliar, distant, expensive and time-consuming to penetrate but it is opening up in asset management, insurance and telecoms to debt. Admittedly, unemployment seems to cent, while Italian borrowing squeezes in at name but a few. Japan is even scrapping its have peaked, growth in the last quarter of 3.5 per cent, then there could be trouble.

discriminatory taxes on Scotch, while the flow of inward investment here in cars and electronics is providing a channel for goods to travel in the other direction.

Of course, there is an even bigger job to be done in Japan where the temptation must remain to engineer recovery, not through lib-eralisation of the domestic market but by using the weak yen to fuel an export boom. Sir David can do little about that but as he flies back to Tokyo he can console himself that at least one or two misconceptions have been put straight over here.

Germany would not allow Italy leeway

So Germany may meet the Maastricht cri-teria after all. The latest, better-than-expected, German jobless figures have raised hopes that EMU is back on course after a prolonged bout of nerves.

But EMU watchers who hang on every move in German statistics are missing the point. Germany's performance relative to the Maastricht criteria is far less important to the prognosis for a single currency than the gap between the German and Italian

Even with the latest figures taken into account, Germany will have difficulty meeting the Maastricht criteria on borrowing and debt. Admittedly, unemployment seems to

orders have bounced upwards strongly - par-ticularly for exports. Nevertheless, there are still 4.3 million people out of work, squeezing tax revenues and pushing up the public spending bill.

But government determination, spending cuts. tax increases or simply a few accounting tricks, could bring German borrowing very close to the 3 per cent borrowing criterion. In which case, a liberal interpretation of Maastricht - a fudge if you like - could allow Germany to form the anchor of a single currency in 1999 after all.

But there's the rub. A little bit of fudge is fine when only Germany is involved. Decades of respectability, prudent public finances and hawkish monetary history still count for something. No one seriously doubts Germany's ability to cope with the strict monetary discipline of a European

But what if a fudge for Germany lets the Italians in too? So long as it is still possible to keep the Italians out, the German public might be persuaded to swallow a Maastricht fudge. But if leeway for Germany is wide enough to let Italy in too, then the German public could yet reject the entire project. If German borrowing is 3,1 per cent this year. but Italian government horrowing hits 4 per cent, then expect a narrow-based EMU in 1999. But if German borrowing hits 3.2 per

Retail: Results soar at profit-sharing group
Up-market furniture stores come to market
Sales lower than expected, says CBI

Bumper bonuses for John Lewis staff

Nigel Cope

The 36,000 staff at the John Lewis Partnership will receive bonuses worth 10 weeks pay after the department store and Waitrose supermarket retailer reported record profits.

cent of salary and are the highest paid by the group since 1988-89, the last year of the 1980s consumer boom.

The bumper bonuses are the result of a hugely successful 1996 at John Lewis, where prof-

Heal's to raise £12m in

Nigel Cope

Heal's, the upmarket home furnishings retailer, will raise £12m from its stock market flotation later this month, though it will only receive

float

£1.75m of new money.

Around £8m of the funds will go to repay in full the invest-ment of NatWest Ventures, while five managers led by Colin Pilgrim, chief executive of Heals, are selling shares worth £1.5m. Mr Pilgrim led the management buyout of Heal's from Storehouse in 1990.

Heal's pathfinder prospectus, published yesterday, showed that the retailer achieved operating profits of £1.5m in the 20 weeks to 1 February, Likefor-like sales were 16 per cent ahead of the same period last year with the winter sale the must successful since the management buyout.

Full year profits last year were £1.8m on sales of £19.4m. Heal's has three stores, on London's Tottenham Court Road and King's Road, and in Guildford.

£217m. Sales at the 23 depart- being spent with caution and ment stores were 13 per cent ahead while those at Waitrose

were 11 per cent higher. Stuart Hampson, chairman, who will be paid the same percentage bonus as everyone else. said he was delighted at the per-The payouts are worth 20 per formance but warned against over-optimism.

"The growth in our sales and profits should not be interpreted as a proof that an Eightiesstyle consumer boom is upon us," he said. "Although there is clear evidence that there is

with a particular eye for value." He said furnishings sales had been particularly strong, boosted by the recovering hous-ing market, while Waitrose had

done well in an increasingly competitive food retail sector.

Mr Hampson singled out the John Lewis ownership structure as a mainstay of its consistent performance. "Our results show the benefits of a business that shares its profits with its staff. I can sit up here on the 12th your reputation has gone. That extra bit of care makes all the

He added: "It is one of the reason I am so cross with the Chancellor about the phasing out of tax relief on profit-related pay. He is undermining something that is a route to competitiveness."

Analysts say that as well as its reassuring "Never knowingly undersold" price promise and its huge range of choice - there floor having good ideas but if a are 1,000 types of zip and 2,000 salesperson is snapping at a cus-types of button on offer - the

underpinned John Lewis's rest by senior management. smooth progress.

Every member is given an induction course on the structure of the company upon joining. All stores open half an hour later one day each week so that staff can hold "communications meetings" where problems and ideas are discussed.

Each store elects representatives to the branch council which is kept informed of all financial affairs. The council meets six times a year with 80 per cent of the 137 seats taken

tomer on the sales floor then partnership structure has always by staff representatives and the

The result, experts say, is better customer service and greater loyalty. Almost a third of John Lewis staff have worked for the group for more than 10 years. Over 3,000 - almost 10 per cent - have put in over 20 years service.

John Lewis sales were 12 per cent higher last year at £3.2bn. The results were boosted by the first full year of the Cheadle store in Cheshire. It is due to open branches in Glasgow and Bluewater in Kent in 1999.

High street stays subdued in February

Yvette Cooper

Shopping was subdued last month, according to the latest survey from the UK's leading employers' association. The Confederation of British Industry's monthly Distributive and orders were so strong a year Trades Survey showed retailers reporting lower sales than ex- said: "In February 1996, retailpected in February, with only a few sectors experiencing strong growth. Companies have also revised their price expectations downwards.

The survey showed that 47 per cent of retailers reported higher sales in February 1997 than in February 1996. Some 23 per cent of companies said monthly sales were lower than a year ago. per cent. The balance has fallen to its lowest level since November 1995, and is lower than com- Survey panel said: "Price comnanies had expected last month.

Dharshini David of HSBC Markets said: "On the face of it, these figures suggest that re-tail sales will be subdued in Feb-Wholesalers' sales volu consumer activity spiralling out of control."

Orders are even more subwith only 33 per cent of retail-

a year ago, and 24 per cent reporting lower orders, leaving a positive balance of only 9 per cent - considerably lower than during the last few months.

However, the results look gloomy in part because sales ago. Kevin Adams of BZW ers felt pretty good about things. The first wave of maturing Tessas boosted sales, and official statistics showed that volumes rose by 1.1 per cent in the month. This February was nev-

er going to be as good."
Price pressures are particularly subdued. The balance expecting price increases fell to 33 per cent in February compared Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's Distributive Trades petition continues to be intense with retailers reporting the smallest annual increases in

Wholesalers sales volumes ruary; in no way are we seeing nose in February by more than expected. Booksellers and stationers, grocers, confectioners. chemists and furniture and cardued, according to the survey. pet retailers all saw market growth in sales compared to a ers reporting higher orders than year ago.

Furnishing a flotation: John Davis, Heal's merchandising director, Colin Pilgrim, chief executive, and Paul Clark, finance director

use the float proceeds to invest square foot have increased by in its existing stores and devel- 52 per cent to £354.

op a larger portfolio.

Customer footfall has increased by 26 per cent since 1991 to 1 million. Sales per politan centres such as Glasgow.

Dublin and Manchester. It will in provincial towns. The company declined to give a timescale of possible openings.

also open slightly smaller and has operated from its cur- The group has a distribution branches of 12,000 square feet rent Tottenham Court Road centre in Edmonton with adjasite since 1840. It was acquired by Habitat in 1983. The Guildford store opened in 1971 and of the group's best selling lines.

Heals' was founded in 1810 the King's Road branch in 1995. cent workshops for the manufacture of Heal's beds, still one

Littlechild price turmoil Rolls-Royce into the red

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Treasury civil servants were attacked yesterday by a Commons committee over their role in the controversy surrounding the review of electricity price controls two years ago which knocked billions of pounds off share prices and outraged in-

However, the long-awaited report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee largely exonerated the role of Goveroment ministers in the affair, instead blaming their officials for failing to tell them that the electricity regulator. Professor Stephen Littlechild, was intending to look again at price controls affecting regional pow-

er suppliers.
Professor Littlechild stunned investors in March 1995 when he amounced that he would undertake a second review of the price regime, following criticism that the price controls imposed the previous year had been far

The regulator's announcement came just after the Government completed the £4bn sale of the first instalment of shares in its remaining stake in the two electricity generators, National Power and Power-Gen. News of the price review plunged the markets into turmoil, knocking £3.5bn off electricity share prices and leaving institutional investors with huge

paper losses. Furious ministers claimed Professor Littlechild had misled them over the timing of the price review announcement. Senior ministerial sources admitted they had prior knowledge of the review, but had no idea it would be announced so soon

after the share offer. The Public Accounts Committee said yesterday that Treasurv officials had known about the possibility of a review of the price controls but failed to alert ministers because they did not subject to the same price conbelieve the issue was relevant to trois.

were not consulted further before the final decision was taken by Treasury officials to proceed with the sale".

However the Committee

stopped short of calling for changes to the rule that regulators of privatised utilities should not make price-sensitive announcements during share offers. Big City investors were concerned during the share sales that Professor Littlechild had informed the Government of his intentions just one working day after the closing deadline for share applications.

The Treasury had argued in evidence to the Committee that it "could not have been anticipated" that the financial markets would interpret that Professor Littlechild's move, which affected regional electricity companies, would have any knock-on impact on gen-erating companies which are not

Officials get blame for | Parsons disposal knocks

and Chris Godsmark

The aero-engine manufacturer Rolls-Royce yesterday said it expected to complete the disposal of its Parsons steam turbine business in a matter of weeks as it plunged into the red because of heavy losses in the division. Exceptional charges of £263m

to cover Rolls' withdrawal from the large steam power generation business turned a £175m pre-tax profit in 1995 into a £28m loss for last year. The tur-bine division, which employs 2,000 at the Parsons plant in Newcastle and International Combustion Limited in Derby, was put up for sale last summer and has attracted interest from Siemens of Germany and General Electric of the US.

"There has been a good level of interest in the businesses and we are in discussions with various parties," said John Rose, Rolls chief executive. "I the generators' offer.

The report agreed that TreaThe report said the Committee regretted "that ministers lessons from previous sales".

The report agreed that Treasolution for both businesses
but we are some weeks away."

However the talks have become bogged down over price. Industry sources suggested that bidders had been concerned at Parsons' declining order book. Rolls-Royce recently pulled out of bidding for a huge power sta-tion contract in India as it winds down Parsons' opera-

The original internal deadline for the sale had been the end of February. Siemens is believed to



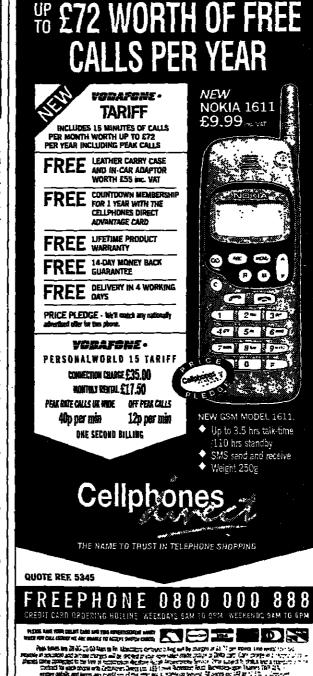
John Rose: In discussions

have indicated to Rolls-Royce in January that it might be prepared to pay around £30m for Parsons. Mr Rose said that obtaining the best result for share-holders was Rolls' paramount concern but it also wanted to dispose of the businesses in such a way as to maximise employment prospects.

Leaving aside the businesses being disposed of, Rolls increased operating profits by a third to £242m, helped by in-creased demand for engines from civil airlines and a full year's contribution from its US military

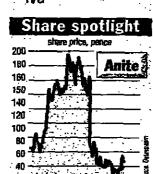
engines business, Allison. Mr Rose said Rolls expected to increase civil engine deliveries from 400 last year to 450 this year, increase the workload at its Derby and Bristol factories by 30 per cent and take on about 400 staff.

The group's order book stands at £7bn and it is working with GE and Pratt and Whitney on engines for the US Joint Strike Fighter, a programme which could eventually be worth \$150bn (£93bn).



market report / shares

FISE 100 4399.3 +39.2 FTSE 250 4707.5 +28.9 **FTSE 350** 2174.6 +18.1 SEAQ VOLUME 885.4m shares,



(20)

56,944 bargains

Gilts Index

Greenspan's comments push Footsie to another high

The FTSE 100 just failed to cling on to the 4400 mark but sentation from the drugs giant. still managed to close at a record high for the third day in a row, up 39.2 at 4399.3. The second and third-line indices also scaled new peaks.

Wall Street again provided the main impetus with the Dow Jones threatening to break back through the 7000 level in early trade, spurred on by comments from Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan that share prices

looked fairly valued. Although the euphoria was somewhat tempered ahead of today's key US jobs data, a gen-erally favourable flow of results

sentation from the drugs giant. Its shares closed 14p higher at 1049p in a heavy volume of 24.3 million shares, making it

the most active stock. Also in demand was Rolls-Royce, which topped the list of blue-chip performers after the aero-engines group posted its first dividend increase since the

dark days of the 1991 recession.

BTR was up 7p at 259.5p on its results and Mercury Asset Management jumped 31.5p to 1410p on bid hopes and the prospect of benefiting from any change to state pensions. change to state pensions.

236p after its full-year results also helped sentiment on one came in at the top end of anof the busiest days of the year alysts' expectations. Apart



MARKET REPORT PATRICK TOOHER

London Clubs. Rank, another Premier League dented possible bidder for Capital, rose 5.5p to 435.5p on a report that Michael Green's Carlton and Michael Grade's First company, 6.5p lower at 120p. Leisure were poised to mount a break-up bid.

Analysis said such a deal would give Carlton, 7p lower at 536.5p, big regulatory problems because it would end up owning all of the UK video duplostic maches. plication market

Chelsea's European ambitions and sent shares in AIM-listed Chelsea Village, the parent

A month ago they were 170p. Dealings in Mosaic Invest-ments, the cash-rich vehicle for was in talks to buy Bolton Wanderers, leaders of the Na-

the chief executive of the consumer magazines division, who was rumoured, inaccurately, to be following managing direc-tor David Arculus through the revolving door. Mr Moloney shelled out just over £5,000 for 688 shares on Tuesday.

Cray used to be a four-letter word in electronics circles until it changed its name to nice, anonymous-sounding An-ite. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to work out why Cray, two years' time if forecast sorry, Anite, wished to draw a hne under a far-from-illustrious past. A series of profit soar on hopes of a business bowarnings and wholesale board changes culminated in a fig.4m loss last year and the expected to hit in 2000. Misys

the top of the market in the late Eighties. All this has transformed the balance sheet, which now boasts net cash of £17m, though shareholders' funds have been as good as

wiped out. broker Nevertheless, Teather & Greenwood reckons the shares could reach 95p in

profits of £14.5m are hit. Software stocks continued to

21.5p at 768.5p. This time it was none other than Tom Moloney, turing – the source of so many terprise Inns and Discovery of its woes. A £20m provision Inns are progressing well, achas been made to cover surplus cording to industry sources. empty properties bought at the top of the market in the late only weeks away though Enterprise will need to organise a helty rights issue to fund the £50m-plus deal. Shares in Enterprise closed unchanged at 266.p. valuing the pub chain at £126m. Discovery pulled its flotation in Decem-ber due to adverse market

Taking Stock

Over 17 million shares changed hands in Wiggins, 0.5p firmer at 10.5p, as the property group presented its case for buying entertainment

3(80 80 60 40 92 93 94 95 96	Source Optimisem	of the busiest days of the year for scheduled company announcements. Glazo Wellcome had an eventful session, rebounding from early losses as analysts took a positive view on pros-	from an encouraging rebound in its betting shops, there was relief that Ladbroke had yet to enter the fray for Capital Cor- poration, the owner of Crock-	10p gain to close at 657.5p as investors celebrated the team's 4-0 drubbing of FC Porto in the European Cup. But an uninspiring 1-1 home	report suggested a £25m deal	£19.4m loss last year and the shares, over 200p in 1994, hit a rock-bottom 27p. But a series of disposals, most recently the sale of half the communications division, means Anite is no longer ex-	surged 40p to 1290p, Logica is advanced 27.5p to 1042.5p, it and Micro Rocus put on another 60p at 1212.5 while Partity which reported figures this.	ntifit Tomorrow's Leisure to ustitutions. The volume was lie biggest seen outside the TSE 100 index. Wiggins has nade an agreed £16.5m offer or the 75 per cent of the hares it does not already own.	
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BRILL

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Asbestos-related charge takes shine off Royal & Sun profits

Royal & Sun Alliance's first set of profits figures since last year's merger were marred by a £167m charge for asbestos and environmental claims in the US. The announcement yesterday took the shine off its plans to buy back £350m worth of shares.

The insurance group also in-curred a higher-than-expected cost of £201m for integrating the previous Royal Life and Sun Alliance businesses. Analysts had expected a figure closer to £175m, the sum the management of Royal & Sun eventually expects to achieve in cost savings each year once the in-tegration is completed. Royal & Sun also took a £32m charge to compensate for the recent

strength of sterling.

Overall. Royal & Sun reported pre-tax profits before exceptional items of £706m, down from £915m in 1995. The 1996 figure includes the cost of the asbestos and currency provisions but excludes the cost of integrating businesses. Pre-tax prof-it fell to £648m from £1.03bm. However, the group is paying a total dividend of 19p per share, in line with its forecasts

when it announced its merger "We are well on target to achieve the objectives we set in covering a range of busiourselves for the integration pe-

riod up to the end of 1997," said Roger Taylor, deputy chairman. Part of its plan was to appoint a new non-executive chairman from outside the group and yesterday it announced that Patrick Gillam, chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, would take on the role. "I have every confidence in Mr Gillam, who has extensive international experience



On target': Roger Taylor, deputy chairman of Royal & Sun Alliance (right), and Richard Gamble, chief executive

nesses, particularly in relation to financial services." Sir Christopher Benson, chairman

of Royal Sun Alliance, said. Royal & Sun has laid off 1,500 of the 5,000 staff it said would lose their jobs as a result of the merger. The insurance group said most of the remaining staff now knew their fate and many of those lined up for redundancy were in management positions

who still had roles to play during the integration phases. "The integration is progressing very well indeed, especially on the staffing front.

The staff know now where they stand and the important thing is that we're continuing to retain business," said Richard Gamble, chief executive of Royal & Sun. Its decision to take a £167m

charge as a result of changes in Of the £167m charge, £117m is petition, Mr Gamble said.

reserving practices for US related to the old Royal Insurasbestos and environmental liabilities follows a similar move by Eagle Star, a unit of BAT. to take a £160m provision to cover the likely cost of old pollution

taking the charge because the these asbestos and environ-

ance subsidiary in the US. Overall, improved profits in its Canadian and Scandinavian businesses were offset by a re-

In the UK, profits in its gen-Royal & Sun said it was eral business fell to £326m from £453m, as a result of an increase methodology of calculating in the frequency and average cost of personal lines claims and ment liabilities had improved. the continuing intensity of com-

IN BRIEF

12 per cent switch from British Gas

More than 112,000 households have signed up to switch from British Gas in the latest phase of domestic competition trials, which start today in Kent and Sussex. The advanced orders mean 12 per cent of customers have moved from British Gas out of 900,000 households taking part, making this by far the most successful start in a trial area. In the South-west of England about 6 per cent of customers signed up to switch in advance. But two independent suppliers vesterday both claimed to have won the most customers. ScottishPower said it had 50,000 households, while Beacon, a joint venture involving the local electricity company, Secboard, insisted it was the biggest independent with 40,000 customers. Across all the trial areas almost 250,000 homes have switched out of 2 million taking part.

Barlow move boosts Bibby shares

Shares in J Bibby rocketed from 1285p to 1815p on an announcement that Barlow was looking to buy the outstanding 21.1 per cent of the diversified industrials group it does not already own. At yesterday's closing price, Bibby has a stock market value of £284m.

Arjo Wiggins forecasts upgraded

Analysts were upgrading forecasts for Arjo Wiggins Appleton yes-terday after the Anglo-French paper and packaging group turned in 1996 figures ahead of expectations. Underlying profits before exceptionals dipped from £207m to £144m in the 12 months to December after two years of declining pulp prices. But management, led by Phillippe Beylier since his appointment as chief executive on Wednesday, won praise from the City in cutting working capital by £204m last year. "The management's actions are bearing fruit ... we think we have left our worst days behind," Mr Beylier said. Arjo warned that another 6 per cent of its employ-ces would be cut this year as part of plans to save £50m by 1998.

Hillsdown holds on to Fairview

Hillsdown Holdings, the food to furniture, yesterday ruled out the sale of its non-food interests, despite City pressure to divest the Fairview New Homes housebuilding operation. George Greener, who took over as chief executive last year, said there were no plans to sell Fairview, which had demonstrated that it was not affected by the cyclicality of the housing market. Following a review, Mr Greener has identified businesses in strong market positions and those which are less strong, but he said the group aimed to manage the entire range using economic value measures as a vardstick to improve performance. The comments followed news of a 10.5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £151m for last year despite the continuing adverse impact of mad cow disease.

Tourists return to Le Shuttle

Eurotungel said Le Shuttle carried 40,381 more tourist vehicles in February than in January, an increase of almost 49 per cent. The total was also 5.5 per cent higher than in February 1996. Despite reduced capacity because of last year's fire, Le Shuttle Tourist has recovered 80 per cent of the market share achieved last Oct. ober. Through-train traffic is also increasing, with Eurostar upby 31 per cent compared with February 1996 and by 27 per cent compared with January 1997, and rail freight up 15 per cent compared with February 1996 and 18 per cent compared with January 1997.

Telewest to use canal network

Telewest Communications has signed a 20-year contract to lease cable infrastructure using Fibreway's UK canal network between London. Woking Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds and Warrington. Fibreway, which is part of GPT is building a nation-wide optical-fibre link along canals in the UK, in collaboration with British Waterways, which maintains 2,000 miles of canals. Building will start this month and completion is expected early next year.

	Compa	ny Resu	lts	
	Turnaver £	Pre-tax E	EP\$	Obridend
Ario Wingins (F)	3 5>n (3.65=)	134m (72.0m)	19.2¢ (2.3p)	7.5p (7.5p)
RIK (F)	9.5204 (9.760n)	679m /1 5bn)	10.79 (269)	9.5p (14.69p)
Cookson (F)	1 Stor (1.50F)	45 Om (169m)	(17p (18.9p)	8.6p (8p)
Gentlers (1)	8.5m (6.2m)	0.52m (9.42m)	0.39p (0.32p)	8.5p (0.5p)
GKN (F)	2.30n (2.09n)	363m (322m)	65p (53 9p)	26.5p (24p)
Claso WellCosts (F)	9 320 17 7864	2 9Em (7 290n)	56.7p (50.3p)	34p (30p)
Haratus Caustywide (F)	- 43	30 Em (3 89m)	8 42p (-2.16p)	2p (nil)
	3.25c (3.50n)	129m - 12 0m)	13.5p (-6.8p)	10p (9.5p)
Ripledown Hidgs (F)	18 3:n (19 4:n)	C35E(1,C30)	6.3p (9.9p)	2.59 (10)
Kede latel (F)	3.85c (3.85n)	59.3m (121sp)	10.44p (7.46p)	6.2p (6p)
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More Group (F)		83.2m 32.9m;	28.2p (10.4p)	15.2p (14.33p)
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RBS puts £150m into mezzanine financing

Jili Treanor Banking Correspondent

Royal Bank of Scotland is putting £150m into a new business that will offer mezzanine financing, often used to fund management buyouts and

Leith Robertson, managing director of RBS Mezzanine, the new venture, said the bank would consider bringing partners into the project but said it was "not really" in talks with any interested parties.

the bank's acquisition finance unit since 1993, intends to recruit two executive directors for RBS Mezzanine and up to three support staff.

"The Royal Bank has a successful history of growing new businesses to meet specific market needs and, knowing the debt market as we do, we have identified a demand for these types of specialist products in deals of £20m or more,"

plug the gap between traditional debt or equity funding. It is more leveraged than debt and usually makes up only a small proportion of any deal. A nterested parties. management buyout worth
Mr Robertson, who has run £100m would typically comprise £50m of debt and £40m of equity with the remaining £10m coming from mezzanine

"Mezzanine, in its broadest

sense, has become an increasingly used tool since the advent of leveraged acquisitions in the late Eighties, but our announcement marks an expansion in the range of debt products available to our customers," Mr Robertson said. He expects the mezzanine

business with established providers of mezzanine finance such as Intermediate Capital Group, which last year noted that as banks were becoming increasingly cash-rich they were more willing to lend more traditional forms of debt in place of what might have been mezzanine finance.

eight to 10 years. RBS will compete for

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Glaxo can adapt to life without its wonder-drug

UK's leading drugs group since the 1995 merger with Wellcome, was doing its best vesterday to reassure investors that the world does not end with Zantac. The basic US patent for the anti-ulcer wonder drug, which propelled Glaxo's phenomenal growth in the 1980s, expires in July.

On what Sir Richard Sykes. chief executive, sees as a worstcase outlook, that could result in sales of its best-selling drug collapsing by up to 80 per cent in the following 12 months, equivalent to nearly a fifth of last year's turnover for the

whole group. But, as Sir Richard was at pains to point out, competition from rival drugs and the dilutive effect of adding the Wellcome portfolio has been steadily reducing the importance to the group of Zantac. Competition shaved £324m from the drug's sales last year, leaving them at £1.93bn, representing just 23 per cent of the total, down from a half at the beginning of the decade.

Total sales of new products faunched since then, such as Imigran for migraine and Epivir for Aids, have overtaken Zantae and will eventually take up the running. But despite the 50 per cent growth rate chalked up by the new products in 1996, the decline of Zantac will continue to be the main feature of Glaxo's results for the next two years.

So while Sir Richard's aim of producing low single-digit sales growth and at least maintained earnings looked uninspiring at first sight, in fact it should give some reassurance to bears who had been forecasting earnings declines up to the end of the century. There is, of course, plenty that can go wrong for Glaxo between now and then.

Currency and the speed and extent of generic competition to Zantac will be crucial. Meanwhile, the group is warning that last year's chunky margins, up from an underly ing 33.1 to 37.5 per cent on the back of Wellcome rationalisation, will fall two points as the marketing push behind new products is stepped up.

Even so, sentiment was moving in Glaxo's favour yesterday. Integrating Wellcome, which delivered £150m of savings last year, still has further to go on

Glazo Wellcome, easily the what excited analysts was Glaxo's forecast that sales growth by 1999 should be back in double digits. Last year's likefor-like 6 per cent sales rise becomes 14 per cent when Zantae is stripped out. As Zantac hecomes less important and another 20 products are launched between now and 2000, that underlying figure should assume

greater importance. So, even if this year's profits dip slightly to £2.84hn, the shares, up 14p at £10.49 on a forward p/e of 19, are probably at an unjustified discount to rivals like Zeneca and SmithKline Beecham. Hold.

BTR is a dog without bite

BTR has proved a real dog of an investment over the past three years, underperforming the FT All Share index by a thumping 45 per cent. What the City is hoping for is a recovery and rerating prompted by the streamlining strategy of Ian Strachan, who joined as chief executive from RTZ last year.

After ruling out any demerger, his plan is to sell the poorly performing operations and concentrate on highermargin businesses that have market leadership. So far the plan is running to schedule. with £1,75hn worth of businesses sold and the £500m rump expected to be shifted by the end of this year. The only problem is that a

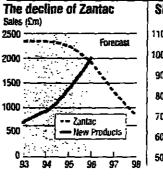
turnaround of this rather boring conglomerate is likely to be measured in years rather than months. Analysis reckon resuscitating BTR is a two to three-year task so shareholders who have seen their shares lose more than a third of their value since their peak in 1993

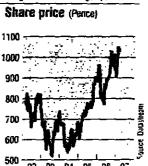
will have to be patient. Yesterday's full-year results showed the impact of the pruning. Pre-tax profits for the year to December slumped from £1.6bn to £679m due to £622m of restructuring charges. As forecast, the dividend was cut to 9.6p from the previous 14.7p.

The main problem area was in the automotive division. where profits were 11 per cent down due to start-up costs in a North American factory and difficult trading conditions in Europe. Power drives and process control, two areas BTR sees as core businesses, showed the best profits growth at 9 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Moré disappointing were building products, where profits crept ahead 2 per cent, and the polymers business, where returns slumped by 12

Looking forward, much will depend not just on market conditions but management's ability to change the culture of the BTR behemoth to one of longer-term investment and growth. On analysts' forecasts of £1,35bn for this year the shares, up 7p at 259.5p yesterday, trade on a forward rating of 12. Inexpensive but

Glaxo Wellcome : At a glance Market value: 537.2bm, share price \$10.49 Five year record Pre-tax profits (£bn) Eargings per share (pence). Dividends per share (pence) 170 *12 month's figures, Pre-Welcome restructing costs. After changed year end The decline of Zantac Share price (Pence) Sales (Om)





House sales record for Hambro

Banking Correspondent

Hambro Countrywide announced yesterday that it sold more houses in February than at any time during the height of the 1980s property boom.

The announcement accompanied results showing that the company made a record £30.8m of taxable profits in 1996, a stark contrast to the £3.9m of losses incurred the previous year and 23 per cent higher than the old record of £25m set in 1987.

Harry Hill, managing director

February, 26 per cent more than the same month in 1996. "March started extraordinarily well too," he said, painting

a bullish outlook for this year. Hambro Countrywide, 52 per cent owned by merchant bank Hambros, yesterday made its first push into the buoyant London housing market by buying Faron Sutaria, an estate agency and letting business, for £7.45m. The deal had been struck

after just six weeks after a "chance" meeting, Mr Hill said. Faron Sutaria would open four more offices across London of Hambro Countrywide, said this year with a further five or the group sold 12,000 houses in six the following year, he said.

He also hinted at further acquisitions, particularly of lettings businesses that can provide steadier income streams than estate agencies. However, he said Hambro Countrywide was

talking to any potential targets.

Mr Hill said Hambro had "pinched other people's business" last year as its businesses increased by 28 per cent compared with a 9 per cent rate of increase across the UK housing market generally.
Its mortgage advisers and fi-

nancial products consultants based in estate agents sold a record 25,729 mortgages, a rise of 72 per cent on 1995.

More than a pause at Cookson

Cookson, yesterday claimed that 1996 was a year of pause in the progress towards superi-or performance at the industrial materials group. A look at the figures suggests that is something of an understatement.

Five new businesses were acquired and two sold in the pursuit of the group's perfor-mance target, but operating profit still fell 6 per cent to £189m, profit before tax and exceptionals was down 8 per cent to £166m, while exceptional items - mainly provisions on disposals and discontinued activities – reduced the final figure to just £45m.

Even excluding those charges, underlying earnings group's main markets across tive earnings, but the dipped a tenth at 17p, while the Atlantic, with US profits unattractive for now.

Bob Malpas, chairman of gearing jumped from oper cent to 35 per cent. In what was once a go-go area, electronic materials, profits fell by 18 per cent to £65m, reflecting continuing excess capacity worldwide in the printed circuit board industry and a rundown in stocks of chips and semiconductors. There was some improvement

in the second half. But Cookson Matthey covery he still expects in the Ceramics, the joint venture with Johnson Matthey, also had a difficult year, while the plastics division slipped backwards, more than offsetting the improvements from the advanced refractories and engineered products divisions. The downturn affected the

dipping from £121m to £117m. Europe and especially the UK, though less important, suffered higger percentage falls. Operating profit was about £4m below the consensus forecast. Chief executive Richard Oster admits that current trading conditions will remain unchanged for the balance of the first half and the size of the re-

the strength of sterling. Many analysts were yesterday starting to shave their forecasts for 1997. The shares, up 5.5p to 235p

trade on just 13 times prospec-

tive earnings, but they remain

second half depends on a re-

covery in the electronics in-

dustry and some weakening in

GKN may have to slash profits to pay US damages claims

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

GKN, the car components, aerospace and pallet hire group, yes-terday warned it could have to slash its profits for last year to take into account huge damages claims from a US court action.

The group has so far resisted making a formal charge in its accounts to reflect the legal claim brought by 1,000 garage owners who run franchises for its American car exhaust business, Mieneke Discount Muffler Shops. They alleged GKN had defrauded them by making illegal commission payments to

its in-house advertising agency. Before Christmas a jury in Charlotte, North Carolina. stunned investors by recommending that GKN pay damages of up to \$554m (£334m). though the judge has recently indicated he may reduce the final figure by a third.

Yesterday GKN reported record annual pre-tax profits for 1996 of £362.8m, up 13 per cent on 1995. However CK Chow, the new chief executive, said the court was expected to decide final damages before the accounts were signed off on 4 April. In this case the figure would have to come off the group's profits, though GKN has already pledged to appeal

against the ruling.
However he played down the importance of the case. "It's not something I expected but that's the deck of cards I was dealt. Our financial resources are so strong that it has no material impact on the overall direction of the group." GKN's net cash pile doubled last year to £334m.

Mr Chow, recruited from the industrial gases group BOC, also said he was exploring several expansion plans, including joint ventures or acquisitions at the Westland helicopter busi-



David Turner, finance director, are eyeing acquisitions ness. He said there were "rich spent £96m last year on acqui-

opportunities" to expand the £310m annual sales of Westland's aerospace components division. Aerospace profits rose from £65m to £85m last year. He said GKN was also eyeing further investment opportunities in emerging markets in Asia and

South America. The group

similar capital spending likely The strategic review under Mr Chow, which GKN said would emphasise "entrepreneurship." boosted the company's shares. They ended 18.5p

sitions and invested £135m, with

CHELTENHAM **ALL THE** FESTIVAL FORM IN **MONDAY'S** BUMPER The Sporting Life

Ladbroke may trump casino bid

Clifford German

Peter George, Ladbroke's chief executive, is "watching carefully" the progress of the bid by London Clubs for Capital Corpora-tion. owner of Crockfords casino. He left little doubt that Ladhroke could easily trump London Clubs' £80m bid, pointing out that the company had £800m worth of long-term borrowing power in reserve.

Analysts said that Ladbroke's share price, which rose 11p to 2360 yesterday, was strong enough to mount an all-paper offer or even justify a rights issue to fund a deal.

But the exceptional costs of closing the property division, settling the long-running rent dis-

Other Spot Rates

Sterling

Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals.

repaying to Sainsbury's the £14m it was judged to have overpaid for Texas Homecare in 1995, and sundry other outstanding items have obscured a strong profit recovery in the hotels and betting

After allowing for a swing from exceptional profits of £23m in 1995 to exceptional costs of £83.5m in 1996, the company announced yesterday that annual pre-tax profits fell 38 per cent to £59.4m.

Operating profits rose 7 per cent to £233m in spite of a slump in the contribution from commercial property, which fell from £23m to virtually zero. The tax charge came down from 27 per cent to 25 per cent,

£708m, and the interest charge fell 27 per cent to £70.1m. The dividend is being raised 3 per cent to 6.2p.

Most of the improvement in operating profit last year came from the UK, which increased its share of the group total from 54 to 60 per cent. The hotels division contributed £160m, an improvement of 6 per cent, but allowing for the sale of the Langham Hotel the underlying improvement was 20 per cent. Occupancy rates and room rates both rose.

Profits rose in London and the provinces in spite of the strength of sterling, which has made the UK a more expensive place to visit. Overseas the im-turnover, but reduced spending are having a flutter.

Bolton Wanderers could be 'starting point for a leisure group' with cash-rich Mosaic

pute over the Paris Hilton, net debt came down £315m to provement was less marked with a £3.5m provision for exchange rate changes.

Seventeen new hotel deals were signed last year and the deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation reuniting the Hilton name worldwide through joint reservation and a worldwide loyalty schemes is expected to pay off in 1997.

Betting and gaming did even better, bouncing back from the depression caused by the competition from the national lottery in 1995. Profits rose 46 per cent to £84.9m. Two-thirds of that came from the betting shops, while Vernons staged a modest recovery to make £5.8m in spite of a 30 per cent fall in

by some of the high-rollers saw the contribution from casinos fall back to £5.3m.

Capital expenditure increased by a quarter to £137m. Spending on the betting shops rose to £13m, and about half the 1,200 strong chain has been renovated, taking advantage of the deregulation of betting and the ending of the old rules requiring betting shops to have amony-

mous shop-fronts.
The idea is to let in more light, advertise a wider range of things to bet on, including the newly legalised numbers games and slot machines, and gener-ally demystify the rituals of

footballing home of one of England's great forwards, Nat Lofthouse, is in the

acquisitive sights of Mosaid

Investments, the cash-rich

shell company run by David Williams. Dealings In

suspended yesterday after

the price jumped from 46p

to 51.5p after news of the proposed deal leaked out. Mosaic's balance sheet

houses £10m of cash and

£10m of accumulated tax

osses, which would come

reverse takeover agreement with Bolton, Mr Williams and

Bolton declined to give any financial details about the

early stage. Bolton, 10

Division One, look a

points clear at the top of

negotiations, which are at an

certainty to win promotion to

completion (left). Mr Williams

considered bidding for Nottingham Forest, "I know there has been a lot of hype

share prices on silly ratings,

but Bolton has been run as a

the lucrative Premiership. They should kick off in the

top flight in a new £35m

stadium that is nearing

said he had previously

about football and some

proper business ... and would be a good starting

isure group."

into play if it can reach a

Mosaic's shares were

Patent pending on sunshine prescriptions?

A colleague of mine had the luck to overhear a fascinating conversation between two
Glazo Wellcome big cheeses
in the gents just before
yesterdays' results press
conference in London.

Sir Richard Sylces, chief executive of Glazo and soonto-be executive chairman, and John Coombe, finance director, were availing themselves of the facilities, when Mr Coombe started ruminating

on the cause of his bad back. While Sir Richard made sympathetic noises, Mr Coombe said he blamed "the stress and the weather. When the sun comes out

everyone feels better." Espying my ear-wigging colleague, Mr Coombe added loudly: "We're all animals, after all."

So that's it then. Now that

Glaxo's patent on Zantax, the wonder drug for ulcers, is due to run out, Glaxo is obviously working overtime on a copyright for solar radiation.

Most City asset management types were surprised, not to say stunned, when Donald Bryden was ousted as acting chief executive of BZW last September, when Bill Harrison took over. Much admired in the industry, Don has turned up trumps now with the top job at AXA. Asset Management Europe, where he will oversee assets worth Fr1,077ba.

Don was a long-time BZW man who joined Barciays Bank back in 1977. He became chairman and chief ex-ecutive of BZW Investment Management in 1990. He was promoted to become deputy of the chief executive, David Rand, four years later. With Mr Band's death last year many assumed Don would take the top job permanently. But three days after Mr Har-rison arrived from Robert

Fleming, Don was out. There is still some confusion at AXA, however, over where Mr Brydon is going to live. AXA's head office is in Paris. A spokeswoman from AXA says: "At the beginni

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



John Coombe: Just animal, after all'

he will be travelling a lot between London and Paris. Where he will stay in the end, we don't know." Sounds like a Eurostar season ticket job to me.

ve just received a missive from Unify, a computer software consultancy. It starts off: "Unify Corporation, sup-plier of Unify Vision, the advanced Client/Server Web enabled application development environment, has made two key appointments."

Now I'm as big a fan of the Internet as anyone - fully mo-dem'd, me - but this seems to be taking technobabble to new baroque heights. As far as I can ascertain,

Unify Vision is a software "template" which financial companies can use to design and build computer systems, which can then be accessed by their operations around the world via the Internet.

Roger Turner, co-founder and managing director of United Gas, has always been a leading advocates of independent gas supply in the UK.
It's now 12 months since

UtiliCorp UK, a Kansasowned company, acquired full control of United Gas, and Mr Turner is leaving to

There may be a few people at TransCo, the former British Gas pipeline busi-ness, who may breath a sigh of relief at Mr Turner's absence, however temporary. from the utilities stage. He was a vocal fan of the huge price cuts forced on TransCo early last year by Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas. She plumped for 20 per cent cuts, he called for 30 per cent. Whatever the redoubtable

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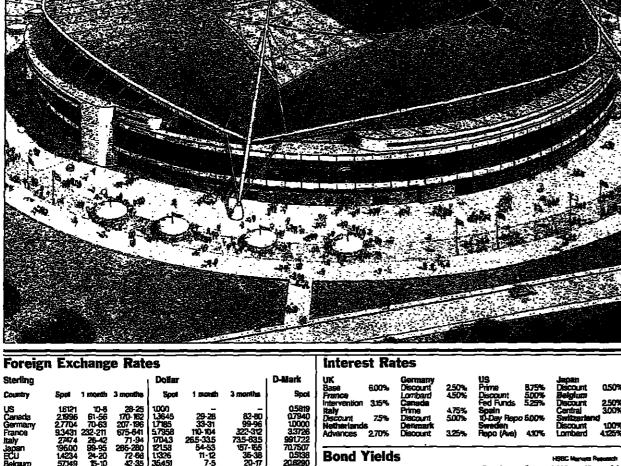
Mr Turner decides to do next, he's not short of a bob or two, having made a for-tune several times over. Electricity, rail and water

utility chiefs should keep their fingers crossed in case he decides to take them on

Nationwide building society, that champion of mutuality standing four-square, or rather Camute-like, against the rising tide of conversions, has introduced new blood to its board. Jonathan Agnew and John Engestrom have joined as non-exec directors.

Mr Agnew is a former chief executive of Kleinwort Benson and ex-managing director of Morgan Stanley. He's executive chairman of London Insurance Market Investment Trust and a member of Lloyd's. Mr Engestrom is another big noise from the insurance world, who spent 16 years with Skandi and was recently appointed chief ex-ecutive of Liberty Re.

Speaking of former chief executives of Kleinwort Benson. Simon Robertson, who left that post last Friday, has popped as a non-executive director at BTR, the exciting engineering conglomerate. BTR insist he was approached before his shock departure. Simon is already a non-exec at John Mowlem, Incheape and The O'Connor Group of New York. Stand by for a full-time appointment.



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FESTIVAL FOCUS: The favourite for next week's Champion Hurdle will be partnered by a rider who has served his time with style

The hour cometh for Bradley and Bay

Graham Bradley, like all good judges of pace, is said to have a stopwatch in his head. Twelve months ago, however, the time-nings that worked in the jock.

Hunt jockeys have snapped their whips, embarked on a phone-tipping service and just started to buy a whole new warntobe of clothes. piece that worked in the jockey's favour was a dysfunctional alarm clock on his bedside

partner Alderbrook, the Change partner Alderbrook, the Chan-pion Hurdle favourite, in a piece of work when a power cut "I think I've still got the bottle." which embraced his Lambourn home meant be was late for the home meant he was late for the appointment. Kim Bailey, Alderbrook's trainer, was not amused and told Bradley where he could shove his saddle Nome. he could shove his saddle. Some weeks later, Collier Bay, the rider's replacement mount, swept away from Alderbrook up the Cheltenham hill with the speed of a second hand to his great rival's big hand. Time was proved to be a great healer.

When Bradley next week rents the Gloucestershire home he has occupied during the Cheltenham Festival for the last few years he will make sure the National Grid does not Richard Dunwoody is likely to the Sweep will run in the Coral affect his attempts at a consecutive partner Relkeel in Tuesday's Cup, Richard Dunwoody will be utive victory with Collier Hay. A battery-operated alarm clock

will be part of his luggage. These days Graham Bradley could be excused for climbing into bed earlier than most of his colleagues. At 36, and with his temples telling you what colour the rest of his hair is likely to be in future, he is one of the the Sweep, Relkeel, Sanmartino greybeards of the weighing and Zabadi. However, his as-room. At his age, most National sistant, Alan King, said: "Cas-

wardrobe of clothes.

However, you will struggle to hear word that the Yorkshireman has lost his nerve or is a di-Bradley had been due to luted athlete compared to the Bradley said this week. "You're na once said that fear is a great part of self-preservation and I understand that because if you don't have that element of fear you'd be too dangerous and

reckless and end up killing You expect to break bones said. "I'm quite selective in

yourself.

Richard Edmondson meets a veteran iockey with few miles on the clock

during the course of the season what I ride so there are not that but you just hope the really nasty falls don't happen to you. It's something that's always there in the back of your mind, and I suppose the time when it gets the better of you in the weighing room and you're too frightened to go out there is the time to pack it in."

This will be Bradley's 16th consecutive Festival, a record be has preserved largely by ignor-ing mounts that have unusual potential to transport him to the underworld. "I've had only about 4,000 rides in my whole life and the likes of Maguire. Dunwoody and McCoy would have that in four seasons," he

many miles on the clock [and this one hasn't stopped].

Michael Dickinson always told me not to ride a lot of bad horses or it would totally knacker my confidence. Going round for £80 on a 66-1 shot that's got no chance and might bury you is a waste of time. It spoils your confidence, spoils your tech-nique and might even spoil you. When people I don't know ring up and ask me to ride something in a novice chase for the first time I think it's a bit of a liberty."

Graham Bradley has lost his racing liberty several times since he rode his first winner in 1980. In fact, when he guides Collier

Bay to post on Tuesday it will be hard to evaluate which side of the partnership has more form. Bradley first felt a ruler across his knuckles in 1982, when he was suspended for having a bet. Since then he has been punished for non-trying, riding a finish a circuit too early and being caught napping (not for the last time) and beaten on the run-in. He knows he has been silly, but there are explanations for many of his misdemeanours and it is easy to accept the belief that the jockey is the victim of unwarranted

official attention. It seems that a singed parchment poster bearing Bradley's features is nailed to the wall of all racing's sheriffs. If he parked on a double yellow line a team from the Jockev Club's disci-

veillance van. It may well be that he has to jump into a canyon to get this posse off his back. "It's been annoying and disappointing throughout my career and something I've had to cope with," he said. "The whole

thing is a pain in the arse.
"There have been the ups and downs, but you've got to be very tough in this world and thick-skinned because lots of things go right but 10 times as many things go wrong. During the bad times, all I could do was keep trying, keep riding out and keep believing in myself until 1 had clawed my way back up. Confidence in my own ability and the love of what I do has

kept me going."
The racing cognoscenti have understood Graham Bradley's capacities ever since Gold Cup day in 1983, when, as a 22-yearold, he led home Michael Dickinson's cavalry on Bregawn. The celebrations that night were conducted among a media scrum in the Flying Pizza in Leeds, but there was a limitation on the carafes of Lambrusco, "I was still a stable lad and misses the meeting.

Martin Pipe's description of the last thing that Mrs Dickinparts of the Cheltenham track son [the trainer's mother] said to me as we left at about midnight was don't be late for work." Bradley remembers. "And we were all there for sevleave Martin Pipe to train his en o'clock." But then those horses and he can leave us to is- were the days when he had a



Bradley: 'I think I've still got the bottle. You're a liar if you say you're not frightened' Photograph: Robert Hallam

Supreme diversion for Sanmartino

12-length third of a large field behind Splendid Thyrie (winner since) at Lingfield in January and the type likely to progress. Measurem won a poor contest at Folkestone (heavy) and is fleely to find it fough going off a 6th higher roting here. Whilespeding Dawin wear in on the flat at Chepstow in 1995 and at Newmarket lest year. Not discredized when third to Brambies Way at Leocester, she was tailed off against Supreme Blusion at Plumpton but was numer-up to Suga Hawk on the level at Wolverheropton on Saturday.

2.35 ANITE SYSTEMS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,518

Minimum weight: 10st. True handitop weights: Oneolus 9st 10, Efeus, Little Rowley, Victory Gate 8st 610. BETTIME: 5-4 Enlays, 13-8 Procedures and Section 14-1 Parliamentariam, 20-1 Oneolus, 33-1 Victory Gate, 66-1 Little Rowley, 13-9 Records 11-2 (R Hodges) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

This is a very weak event by Sandown standards and can go to EULDGY even if he is on topmeight and hasn't accred yet under Rules – he was a winning point-to-pointer in Ireland.
Richard Rowe's runner shaped well over hundles – brice placed from three starts last term
– and he might well have won Phasanear's Chepstow race if he hadn't falten two flights out
when in the lead, Eulogy rook minor honours on he first two ournes this term and, after unplaced efforts against Henniera Howard at Leiseaser and Young fearing at Chepstow (Grade
Two), 'an well on his lenning bow in going down a couple of lengths behing previous sooner
Ader Mole over the extended two and a half miles on this unck. He must improve as a result of that experience and the longer journey should be within his capabilities. Funcheon
Guide's Folkestone victory came in an even worse race than this in November and he hasn't
been out since, Sull, he did also was thercesser in June and can provide most diager recling off only a 3th higher mark than last time. Elevas has yet to show much dissorte twice

g off only a 3th higher mark than less time. Expense your Jun. Selection: EULOGY and board.

Selection: EULOGY

Champion Hurdle as the horse's stable-companion in David Nicholson's yard, Sanmartino, is likely to miss the race in favour of the Supreme

Novices' Hurdle. Nicholson left four of his team among the 21 five-day acceptors for the Champion: Cason Relkeel. A decision on San-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Six Clerks (Market Rasen 2,45) NB: Crandon Boulevard (Exeter 1.45)

martino will be made on Sunday but he will probably go for the Citroen Supreme. Zabadi

runs in the Champion but I don't know who rides." Nicholson scotched doubts about Relkeel's well-being and

reported that the gelding, who returned from a long spell of in-jury to test Collier Bay at Towcester last month, was "200 per cent". He expects his challenger to turn the tables on the reigning champion, whose Cheltenham odds were eased to 100-30, from 3-1, by Ladbrokes in the face of support for Large

Action (9-2 from 5-1) and Space Trucker (5-1 from 11-2). Collier Bay's stable-companion, the leading novice Juyush, is injured

as "puddingy" has been contested by the course's Edward Gillespie. "We are not worried about the going. I think we will sue the going reports," he said. good alarm clock.

ACT THE WAS, who missed a race at Relso on Tuesday due to a brused foot, represents Robert Ogden in preference to three other entires. With son Adam (who node a double on the Saturday of this meeting last year) in the saddle Martin Todhumter's charge can give the the Saturday of this meeting last year) in this saddle Martin Todhunter's charge can give the weight all round. Act The Wag comes here in good shape after scoring at Cattenck and at Newcastle last month and he can complete the hat-inck at the main expense of Cardinal Richellou. This 10-year-old has decent point-to-point form, winning at Horseheath his single start of 1993-94 and coming back in tremendous style after a couple of seasons off to land both starts this term – at Marks Tey and Cottenham. He should be at home on this stiff track. Duhalitov Lodge, successful at Taunton in November, was tailed off when pulled up at Exeter next time but didn't nin badly for a 33-1 shot when unplaced against General Command in the Great Yorkstive Chase at Oorcaster. He finished a four-tength number-up behind Mr Pickpocket at Taunton is time and appeals most of the remainder. Juliana was beaten a length by Finitsy Truth in a poor contest at Wawkick last time, while Gunner Stream, 20-1 winner of the corresponding race in 1992, has deteriorated.

Selection: ACT THE WAG

3.45 RACAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £3,022

BETTHIC: 4-5 Emergid Statement, 11-4 Friendship, 13-2 Jazzmen, 9-1 Millersford, 10-1 Jack Sollagher, 14-1 Camera Man, 20-1 Faithlegg, Music Class, School: Watters, 50-1 others 1996: Him Oil Praise 6 11 2 J A McCarthy 9-1 (O Sherwood) 10 ran

Friendship and Jazzman were both successful on the same card at Windsor three weeks Cleric to three parts of a length at Lingheid before putting up his best perior when third behind a useful pair in Agestment and Forest kury at Humingdon (2m 4f), beat-en a neck and helf a length. The return to further will suit, Jack Gultarber, who is on a seen a neck and held a length. The letturn to numer was surc. Joech vallagement, who is on a se-quence of seconds, is unlikely to stoke form here getting only 5to from Emerald Statement. Milliossford, who won at Nempton on November on his reappearance, has since run unplaced at Windsor, Windsarton and on a return to the Sunbury course, but will be more at home on this testing track.

4.15 DUKE OF GLOUCESTER (PAST & PRESENT) HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 3m 110yds Penalty Value £1,349

UP34SU - BRACKENFIELD (342) (D) IR W Humphress R Barbs 11 12 4.... Capt D Alors-Hambey (T) B

ETTING: 5-4 Brackenfield, 5-2 Over The Edge, 4-1 American Eyrs, 10-1 True Steel, 12-1 Across The Card, 20-1 No Joher, 25-1 Golden Mac.
1996; Over The Edge 10 11 11 Mr S Socroon 11-4 S R Sporoon 4 ran

1996; Over the Edge 10 11 11 Mr S Soomong 11.4 is 8 Soomong 4 ran FORM GUIDE.

Over The Edge who won this a year ago, bearing 6.4 on chance On The Other Hand half a length after a recent point-to-point victory, again comes here fighing fit after coming nome by four lengths between the flags at Amption two weeks ago, However, he seems likely to find one too good this time in BRACKICHFIELD. Richard Barber's 11-year-old, who did well when trained by Mary Reveley in his jounger days, has won a couple of points this season, at Barbary Castle and Landvill, where he beat sushlemate Fairus, winner of the 1995 Cheltenham Footheriest time lengths, in between, Brackenheid was 20 lengths clear of the third-placed Teatrader ishort-headed at Bargor on Wednesdays when beaten two and a half lengths. Stall in Business also at Landvill. Time Steel, numer-up to Norman Conqueror in last year's by Still in Business also at Larkhill. True Steel, runner-un to Norman (Longueror in last year Grand Military Gold Cup, was having his first race since when pulled up before the lences out in Bitofambup's race at Huntington last week. American Eyre, three length where of a Channe point, 12 days ago in his first outing since last May, looks best of the others. Selection: BRACKENFIELD

4.45 RAYNES PARK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added

	2m of Penanty Value £3,550
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29/2-300	TEXAN BABY (BEL) (20) (D) (C 3 Sangerson: N Leaster Daves 8 11 4 D Walsh 1
235220	FORTUNES COURSE (14) (0) (675 A) Garrent Francis 11 3
261-00	COURT NAP (22) (Ser Mativas Cannelli S Mettor 5 11 0
	JEFFERES (22) Alsa & Burnoety 10c 3 to 13
	SATUGGLER'S POINT (USA) (30) (Abs V P Hoars) / Bridge 7 10 12 . Southle Mitchell (5
P00-036	MOIAN QUEST (39) J. L. Pacrop, N. Gassier, S. 10 11
244P00	SWING QUARTET (43) (D) (T (a): 3h; N instanciones 7 10 a
	MRADOR (18) (0 BF) (Altr.) Charles (1 Modern, Two hallows (1 Cap. 6 10 2 . D Month

BETTING: 5-2 Mirador, 3-1 Jefferies, 9-2 Fortunes Course, 11-2 Whige Cove, 7-1 Indian Quest, 8-1 Smuggler's Point, 9-2 Texam Baby, 10-2 Swing Quester, 16-1 Court Map 1996: Lead Vocales 7-11-2 D Q Sulvian 3-1 R Points 8 ran FORM GUIDE

JEFFERIES, raised only 2to for his game Taunton (2m3f) success three weeks ago, should IEFFERIES, raised only 2to for his game Tailinon (2m3n) success three weaks ago, should be difficult to beat here. Im Old's number also went in all Toucester (2m) in Rovember or, his return, following with a two-length second to Dominion's Eneam at Eveto. He should be suited by this longer pourse, and Norman. Withamson takes the mount, Wings Cove trashed a length in from of Jeffenes when the liver little and girth to Ottadino at Leicester in January and, although 6th worse off in, selection can reverse that running. Wings Cove was later beaten out of sight at hemipton. Mirador frotted up over slightly nather at Fontwell in December on her opening outing this season. She was well beaten in Hennetta Howard's more when 19th stong in the neights at Wincanton and probably found the going too soft when market leader and last of four inisters to Paddisvery on a return to Forthoot. She might provide most danger to back to net best. Fortunes Course won a chase in Catterica, and was placed tinger to back to net best. Fortunes Course won a chase in Catterica, and was placed tinge over fences last season. Beaten five lengths to Sail B. The Stars over tember at Lingbiet in December, she can impenal Vintage to a neck in a handicap chase at Ludlow in January out was well beaten behind Mr Strong Cate when back over furtiles at Southwell last time.

SAND 3.45 Emerald State 4.15 Brackenfield 2.00 Jakes Justice 2.35 Eulogy 3.10 Duhallow Lodge 4.45 Jefferles

Right-band course; seven testing fences along back straight; run-in of 300gst.

Course is on A307, 4m 3 of Kingston. Eaher austion (service from London, Waterloo)
adoline course. ADMISSION: Cabb. 516, Junior Cabb (16 - 25yps) 513; Grandstand & Paddock 510; Park 54. CAR PARK: 52 in members (More Lune), remainder free. \$13 B.

ELRADING TERMINERS WITH RUNNERS: \$ Gallord — 22 winners from 143 names gives a success rate of 15.4% and a less to a 51 level stake of 521.11; \$ Old — 11 winners, 32 namers, 32.2%, +665.92; \$\forall Plyle — 11 winners, 61 namers, 18.2%, -25.87; \$\cdot \text{Brooks} — 7 winners, 45 namers, 15.6%, -210.54.

ELRADING SOCKEYS: \$\text{Diantwoody} — 31 winners, 105 rides, 29.5%, +532.77; \$\text{A Maguire} — 21 winners, 32 lides, 22.5%, -89.20; \$\text{J Ophoryso} — 18 winners, 711 rides, 17.1%, -641.34; \$\text{Plike} \times = 10 minners, 85 rides, 11.8%, -220.80.

BLINKERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None.

VINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None.

LONG-DESTANCE BURNESS: Act. The Wag (3.10) has been sent 268 miles by M Todhanter from Ulverson, Cambria; Imperial Bounts (3.45) & Spirit Of Success (3.45) have been sent 198 miles by N Lampard from Empiricipe, Devon.

ĺ	2.00	WORCESTER PARK NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,850 added 2m 110yda Panatty Value £2,885
1		SHARRAN (SO) (D) A S Relates and Mr S Hybran) M Pipe 5 11 13
2	12:12	REDAL PURSUK (186) (8F) (Larry Tracey) N Harderson 6 11 11P Maker (7)
3		OFFICE MEZZO CLAS COLUP M & J W Cook) M Politico 5 11 8 R Destrooty
4		JAMES JUSTICE (44) (D and M Sound) Gallet 8 11 1
5		MUSEUM (18) (F D Barter & R.J. & Sieles) P Variations 6 10 10X Alapseu (7)
6		WHISPERING DAVIN (25) NY H Ponsing) C Books 4 10 2
7		SIR DAMRE (15) (Page R William) IF Rome 6 10 0
ğ		PRESIDER LEAGUE (557) (The Harlander Patriatics) Long T 16 C

– a generation – Vantituum weight: 10st. True handicap weighes: Sir Daniel Set 12th, Premier League 9st 6th. SETTRIC 2-1 Regal Parault, 12-4 Julius Justica, 4-1 Massaus, 7-1 Otto E Mezzo, 8-1 Stahrani, 10-2 Sir Danta, 12-1 Whispiering Dans, 25-1 Premier Laugue 1996: Amage 7 11 6 E Musphy 9-1 (Lady Homes, 12 ran

1996; Arnace 7 11.6 E Mustphy 3-1 (Jady Hernisty, 12 cm)

FORMI GUIDE

RESEAL PURSUART hasn't been our since a four-length second behind Royal Rawen at Ascot (2m 4ft in November but he should be fit enough and is fanced to make her first venture into nandicap company a wholing one. Nack Herniston's number went in at Plumpton (2m 1ft on her penultureus start - her first rece in endigt mentile - number on well to beact Docklands Courtier 10 lengths. Richard Derwoody, out of action since his Kempton tumble 1.3 days ago, returns on Ottos & Mazza who scored four times on the Fist in taily at two for John Durtop's stable and who optend his hunding account at Southwell a fortinger ago, Hoverer, Otto E Mazza was all out to delete Pinterton's Pal two and a half lengths and should not cope with my selection gatting only 3to, Indeed, a frager danger might be Jakes Justice, a

3.10 HORSE & HOUND GRAND MILITARY GOLD CUP CHASE (CLASS E) (AMATEURS) £7,000 3m 11.0yds Penalty Value £4,879

036/13 ACROSS THE CARD (281) 04g Cen C Remsely May Gen C Remsely 9 12 11 _Capt W Remsely (7)
#7101-P OVER THE EDGE (29) (ED) IC Sportog) C Sportog 11 12 11 ______ Mir 9 Sportog (7)
55P044 AMERICAN EYRE (295) U 9 5 Hollms) Mr 9 Gladders 12 12 4 ______ Mir 9 Gladders (7)

MARKET BASEN

1.40 Oakbury 2.10 Mr Boston 2.45 Six Clerks 3.20 Thursday Night 3.50 Golden Hello 4.25 Dual Image 4.55 The Gnome GOING: Good (Good to Sol) patches on classe cottree).

GOING: Good it and to son pateres on cases course.

M. Right-hand, sharp, unfallating circuit.

Course is E of lown on ASSI. Market Rasen station (Lincoln - Grimsby lane) 1m. ADMISSIONS (Inb. 21.2.50 flurions) 16-21 & Statemas S.5-50; Thomas S.8-& Street Ring 56.50 (Julylice Club CAPs 65). CAR PARTY Free.

515

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BLINKERED PIEST TIME What's Secreta & No Fiditing (3.20). Winners in the east seven date: Carly Butin (2 10) wun here on Standey LONG-DISTANCE SUNWISER: Dream Londer (3.50) & Sweepaway (1.55) have been sens 207 miles by M Roberts from Hallsbarn.

1.40 TARMERS DAY SELLING HOAP HOLE (CLASS G) £2,375 2m 1f 110/ms

1 5135-PP EMPOLING THE MERIC, DOI 5 COM 5 12 D.

2 3P 7544 ALST FOR A MEDISON GRI AT ACCES 5 11 2... TRAINED

3 1 002P-0 BLANDET FOR A SESSON GRI AT ACCES 5 11 2... TRAINED

4 003220 ONCOLONY (12) Vers L 5 cts 1 5 20 13 ... T SIGNAT (7)

5 005005 COLO. STEEL (15) No. 1 (16 more 5 10 10 ... T SIGNAT (7)

7 0005 SPHITTER SERVICE (12) (17) G MICHAEL 5 10 8 ... THE COLOR 5 10 8 ... THE CO 1 SUPREME BURSHON (25) (8) John Story 4 10) 7

00-PPD W000LANDS LAD 700 (38) P RStreet 5 10 6

- 9 declared - - 9

2.10 BEALMONTCOTE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,800 Sm 1f

2.45 WHENLEY NOVICE HUNDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 470 26 1f 110/ds

3.20 LINCS AGRICULTURAL SOC HCAP HDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 5f 110 yds 41350 NEEDWOOD FOFFY 221 E Mages 9 10 11 . E CES 500150 NO PROLING 220 G McCout 6 10 10 . D Bridgeste PS-3521 WHAT'S SECRETO (174) (0) H Alexander 5 10 8...

12 530536/- DOCTOR BURBLIN (857) (D) Als V Ward 8 10 0 .

-12 declared Minimum: 10st. Nos weights: High Performe 9st Sto, Dosor Dunitin Sto, MCTINGS: 5-1 Dann Minimum; 10st. 4-1 Through Hight, 8-1 Dancel Roses, 7-1 No Fidding, 8-1 Sandwer, 10-2 Crary Roses Dancer, Needwood Poppy, 12-1 others

3.50 WHEATLEY PACKAGING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,200 2m 4f

SEABRIGHT SAGA M Chapman 7 10 10 9 2040U TUG YOUR FORELOCK (12) G Johnson Houghton 6 10 10 DIOZOP. PARSONS BELLE (449) Mrs C Soumen 9 10 5...

- 2D declared -BETTROS: 4-5 Golden Helio, 7-2 Clarectourse, 7-1 Gorby's Myth, Geoffe Stee, Cream Leader, 20-1 Partners Belle, 25-1 others

4.25 LINPAC GROUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 2m 1f 110yds 21.1123 MESISSET SAID (CT) (CD) P Beaumor 7 12 (F JR Saiple 061412 DUNL BIMGE (CS) (RF) | Fellowid 10 11 12 JR Saiple 311231 STREE SHARP (CS) (S) H ONE 9 10 13 Jacopi Oliver 823P02 RESORD LOVER (JA) M Crapman 7 10 0

- 5 declared - Removed Liver 9st 68s. elleranian ways. Rush: Gert Str. 20. BETUNK: 5-4 Dual Irange, 7-4 Retherby Said, 7-2 Super Sharp, 14-4 Record Laws, 25-1 Restit: Gest

BETTING: 5-1 Percy's Joy. 13-2 The Growns, 5-1 Bessie Bruss 13-2 Wandfield Vision, 7-1 Junios: HB, Noble Tox, 10-1 other

EXETER HYPERION 1.45 Spread The Word 2.15 Avanti Express 2.50 Bear Claw 3.25 After The Fox 3.55 Cool Gunner (nb) 4.30 Mammy's Choice 5.00 Menesonic

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in a few places).

Right-hand, undulating course. Sulf test of stamms.

Course is 5m SW of Exeuer on A38. Exeter (St. Davids) is on main London (Paddington) to Cornwall railway line.

ADMISSION: Grandstand & Paddock 5 10; Silver Ring 55 accompanied under-16s free). CAR PARE: Pree

BIJNIKEED FIRST TDEE: Spread The Word (1.46).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Foxies Last (1.46) & Skinlog Laget (1.430) sex: 144 miles by D Micholson from Temple Guilleg, Glones.

1.45 HMS EXETER NOVICE HOLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,425 2m 3f 110yds 0-6 COMMUNITER COUNTRY (\$1) CR Barrel 6 11 2 OUNSIGNS WELL (600) F Tucks 8 11 2.M Critish (7)
FOURS HOLL (600) F Tucks 8 11 2.M Critish (7)
FOURS LAO (78) D Mcholson 5 11 2.M F Decemb (7)
MILICADOT RESUTTA (18) R Aver 5 11 2.A Thorston

04 MYSTIC MILL (22) R Flost 6 11 2 ______ Frank MEARLY ALL RIGHT Simon Earle 8 11 2 ____ C Mausie 00-P SUPREME CRUSADER (95) W McNettle-Coles 6 11 2

Delema — 12 decimal — BETTING: 5-2 Consion Boslovard, 11-4 Fant Romes, 5-1 Sprind The Word, 6-1 Fayles Lad, 8-1 Mystic fill, 14-1 others

2.15 HMS EXETER NOVICE HTDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) \$2,425 2m 3f 110yds 2-221 AVAIM EXPRESS (CIR) C SENSON 7 11 8 ... J Octobre 502F IVILADE (NZ) (R) A Hobbs 5 11 2 ... R Brooms FRO MR (COVERY (S) J Readle 6 11 2 ... Y Democratic (S) FPP ROTIN (S) L WRITE 8 11 2 ... JA GRIEDE (J) B OP-304 STEER POINT (22) R FROST 6 11 2 ... L FROST COVERN (S) L WRITE 8 11 2 ... L WRIT 2-P TALE BACK (87) Mess H Hinger 5 11 2 _______ F Finding 0 CUBLIN (28) R Smith 5 10 11 ______ C Maurile

2.50 DIAMOND EDGE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 2m 7f 110yds

1 1-1F32F PLEASURE SHARED (LA) D) (EP) PHobis 9 11 8 3 35-4871 SRORMY SIMEST (45) W Derve 10 11.7 Mr 7 Beach (7) 4 111/45 BEAR CLAW (10) 0 Shemood B 11.2 J Oshome B 5 0-POPF DEGRAM (7) 5 Ente 7 11.2 S Michell 6 40-33 MOIAN DELIGHT (6) M Pop 7 11.2 L Mande

- 11 decientd -SETTMS: 9-4 Carole's Crusader, 5-2 Picetant Shared, 3-1 Bear Class, 6-1 Indian Deligit, 18-1 Materood Cestle, 20-1 others

3.25 SITWELL ARMS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 2m 2f

4 2-221U5 BISHOPS CASTLE (35) (C) R Frox 9 11 4 _____ Front 5 5033(2) SUPER RITCHART (10) B Poling 9 11 1 ____ T Jenks 6 1-FP224 AFTER THE FOX 69 (8F) N Haule 10 10 11 ____ U530PO COLETTE'S CHOICE (22) G Ham 8 10 1 ... \$ Burrough 8 044-P50 CHRI HESONTS (50) K Sertop 7 10 0 & Torrowy 8 9 55-0026 MEDINI TEMPLE (30) K Sertop 6 10 0 & Green 10 P-P66 ALPRIE SONG (18) Mas V Septiers 12 10 0

- 11 declared Abriman weight 10st Time hamilton weight the Heights Ser 12b, trailer Heights Ser 12b, trailer Heights Ser 12b, trailer Hernald Ser Sh. Alpine Sorg & Germin Mest Bar Sh.
SETTMA: 3-1 Anaber Sparis, 5-1 Teal Boss, 11-2 After the Fox, 61 Bishops Castle, 7-1 Cinvarta Boy, Super Minchart, 12-1 others

3.55 ERITISH RACING CENTRE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 3f 110vds

2m 3f 110yds

1 123F06 PENNYMOUR FRANCE (20) R Flost 8 11 10__1 Frost 2 0533-16 REDWARD (22) Andrew Turrel 6 11 2__1 Harrey 3 53FP5 THE BARBEHAM (52) 0 Gardato 9 11 1_0 Fort (2) 4 22242 DEVON PEASANT (22) 1 6 Cottest 5 11 1_MF 1_16ford 5 /F31-15 FREENOLY HOUSE (35) (8F) M Pipe 8 11 0____A P MicCoy 6 UU-6:104 COOL GUNDER (18) (C) J Verg 7 10.1__C Handle 6 UU-6:104 COOL GUNDER (18) (C) J Verg 7 10.1__C Handle 5 UU-6:104 COOL GUNDER (18) (C) J Verg 7 10.1__C Handle 5 UU-6:104 COOL GUNDER (18) (C) J Verg 7 10.1__C Handle 6 UU-6:104 COOL GUNDER (18) (C) J Verg 7 10.1__C Handle 7 6 declared - 6 declared - 8ETTRIC: 3-1 Devon Peasant, 7-2 Trouvalle, 4-1 Cool Gorner, 9-2 Friendly House, 6-1 The Barguman, 7-1 Peanylayour Prince

4.30 WEATHERBYS BULLETIN MAGA-ZINE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 3f 110yds 1 US-1225 STEPRING LIGHT (24) (BF) D Nectolson 8 12 0. 2 16-1231 LANCE ARMSTRONG (10) G McCourt 7 11 9 (6e) 3 0:11908 MARRAY'S CHOICE (7) (85) R Ainer 7 10 9... A Thor

5.00 ENJOYMENT OF BEING AN OWNER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925

7 O-DPCPP DELIST THE SECOND 253 P Rozlor 5 10 10

8 454724-0 PLASEMANN (26) E (see-ship 7 10 10 Lab 11, Librushiya
9 0: HAN LINE (1,086) M Coumbe 9 10 10 ... Mr L. Jedfond
10963-634 LOGGCH, STEP (1A) D Candoto 7 10 10 ... & Bradley
1153-4725 MEMESONIC (26) R Alve 7 10 10 ... P Henley (3)
125-4P65P MR-TADIL (15) R Boler 5 10 10 ... V Sentiny
POLIERMANN J Forg 7 10 10 ... C Station
13 POLIERMANN J Forg 7 10 10 ... C Station
14 Control of the Librushiya Control of 10 c ... C Station
14 Control of the Librushiya Control of 10 c ... C Station
15 Control of the Librushiya Control of 10 c ... C Station
16 Control of the Librushiya Control of 10 c ... C Station
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18 Control of the Librushiya Control of 10 c ... C Station
18 Control of the Librushiya Control of 10 c ... C Station
18 Control of the Librushiya Control of 10 c ... C Station
18 Control of 13 POLISHMAN | Feg 7 10 10 C Name 14 40500F BLAZING WIRACLE (18) (8P) Mrs R Henderson 5 10 5 0 Salter (8) 15 PO GINGER MAID (7S) M Pipe 9 10 5 G Salter (8)

HYPERION 1.50 Derannie 2.20 Nooran 2.55 BANG IN TROUBLE (nap) 3.30 Disco Des Mottes 4.00 Denim Blue 4.35 Solsgirth

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places). Left-hand galloping course; run-in 210vds
Course is E of Lown on A7%. Ayr station (service from Glasgow) 1m. ADMISSION: One enclosure 57 (OAFs 51) SIS ACCE

BLINERED FIRST TIME: None WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS; None.

LONG-DESTANCE RUNNERS; Rudson Bay Trader (25%)
sent 198 miles by P Beaumont from Brantshy, N Vortabline 1.50 LOCH DOON 'NH' MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,700 added 2m

003 COTTSTOWN 907 (12) Mrs S Brackum 6 11 6... M Moleney
003 COTTSTOWN 907 (12) Mrs S Brackum 6 11 6... A Dobble
00 LA RIVERIO (22) 6 Pactents 5 11 8 ... A Dobble
00 LA RIVERIO (22) 10 Centent 5 11 8 ... A Dobble
07 RIVERIO (7 British Mrs | Society 8 11 8 A Cohill
050007 CRIMER RIVERIO (22) 0 Pacerson 8 11 3... F Centerio
04002 LIMBROCK LADY (10) 8 Mactages 7 11 3 A Storey
004007 MENDOWLECK (24) W Young 8 11 3 ... P Centerio
20 CRE STOP (21) M Barnes 4 10 9 ... S Toylor (5)
- 11 decisted -

- 11 dectared -BE(TBNC: 2-1 Demante, 3-1 Cartiste Bandito's, 7-2 Lumback Lady, 7-1 Cotistone Boy, 14-1 Alabrook, La Riviera, 16-1 others, 2.20 JOHN BROWN MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 2m

2.55 JAMES BARCLAY HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £4,000 3m 110yds 3/1313 MALITARY ACADEMY (6) (C D 8F) G Romans 6 12 0 0/32-0F6 BANG IN TROUBLE (11) (C) 110 Net 6 11 6 150/111 TRIBUNE (11) (0) C Thoman of 11 6 (6a) M Foster

2 OPR 200 LEADING PROSPECT (38) No. 1 Goodeline 10 to 12

3.30 ARTHUR CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 2m 4f 275-651 DISCO DES MOTTES (3) (D) G Set anti è 11-12

BETTING: 2-1 Disco Des Mottes, 3-1 Solta, 7-2 Twin Falls, 9-2

4.00 AYRSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSO-CIATION NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,800 2m 5f 110yds (CLASS H) £1,800 2m 5f 110yds
305F CANNY CHRONICLE (364) Lbss C barsen 9 11 10.

Afr A Parlier (7)
32:40 DEMAN BILIE (1.187) Mrs P ROSEN 5 11 10.

Siese F Roberon (5)
02 ELI PECHANPAH (831) Mrs Jean McCrego 7 11 10

(6) FROZEN SDF (1.425) A Brum 9 11 10. Mr Millson (5)
31,000 PLANNING GAIN (325) Mrs 1 **Clarks 6 11 10.

Mr M Brandhume (7)
WOODY DARE F Hestoran 7 11 10

MOLLY SREY P Moreton 6 11 5 ... Mr R Hole (5)

- 7 declared -- 7 declared - BETTINS: 6-4 Frazes 50ff. 2-1 Denits Blee, 7-1 Et Peckampah, 10-1 Woody Dare, 12-1 Motly Grey, Planning Gain, 25-1 Canny Chronicle

4.35 DOON NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

#230 ERMAR (FIG. 8D 6 Farets 6 21 12 P Coheny 4 20415 PHAR ECHO (14) (C) L Lango 6 11 9 . M Foster 8 21 225 KEMO 5480 (27) (D) C Parker 5 11 5 . D Parker 8 0 PA 1 EXO SASTRI (24) (CD) 1 STATE 6 20 7 ... B Storey 0 5 395 BILLS PROF (11) P Myresn 6 10 5.0 McCormack (7) 20 225 EXECUTED (11) P Myresn 6 10 5.0 McCormack (7) 6 C 6 PA BETTING: 7-2 Solegith, 4-1 Phile Etho, Skame River, 9-2 Jervauts, 5-1 Kerne Salos, 8-1 Mexikift, 10-1 others

Helissio limbers up

Helissio, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, ex- trainer, has voiced doubts ercised on the track in about Helissio's ability to Dubai yesterday but is act on sand. not yet a confirmed runner for the World Cup on and Flemensfirth, three of

horse of 1996 breezed a Cup, warmed up for the mile and cruised past his race yesterday. Singspiel lead horse, Al Jathaab, at had a day off after workthe two-furlong marker. ing on Wednesday

Elie Lellouche, his Bijou d'Inde, Even Top

29 March. the British-trained con-Europe's highest-rated tenders for the World



FOOTBALL: Ferguson's side may have come of age in Europe after learning from previous misadventures, says Glenn Moore

United surpassing club's old masters

3 Manchester Unit-👅 ed's stunning 4-0 win over Porto in the European Champions' League quarter-fi-

nal on Wednesday night, some commentators evoked the memory of another great United performance against a Por-tuguese side, the 5-1 victory over the Lisbon Lions against Benfica 31 years ago.

Now, this is not to denigrate that performance, away from home against a wonderful team, but there is no comparison. On Wednesday's display the contemporary United would have slaughtered the team of

Best, Law and Charlton. Heresy? Watch the games on video. Much of the earlier match was played at near walking pace and, though there was a lot of largely unpunished bru-tal fouling, space in most parts of the pitch was widely available and Benfica's defensive marking was diabolical.

Wednesday's match was played at high speed throughout with players closed down the moment they had possession. United's work-rate was as phenomenal as their skill and movement. As Gary Pallister. who illustrated United's confidence with one second-half break-out, said: "It was a bit like watching Juventus against us in Turin. Everyone chased the ball and hunted down any Porto

player who had it." Obviously, given modern training methods and playing disciplines, most of the old masters would be as impressive as their successors. Application is easier to instil than skill, though not everyone can man-

In the wake of demonstrates just how much the game has moved on and just how good modern football, for

all its critics, is.
Wednesday night also suggested that, with astute management and intelligent play. English clubs can again match the best in Europe. It is a dozen seasons since an English club, Liverpool, reached the last four of the Champions' Cup. That season ended in tragedy and exile at Heysel. Since English teams returned to the competition in 1992. Arsenal, Leeds, Manchester United

failed to even reach the last four. Now United barring a catastrophe in Oporto in 12 days' time, will be there. They would meet either Borussia Dort-

twice, and Blackburn had all

but will have the dismissed Stefan Reuter suspended for the second. Yesterday Uefa were not sure if his suspension would coming of age. also affect the semi-final. Who plays at home first will be de-

cided by a draw in a fortnight. United would then be two games away from what would be a very emotional final - the game is to be played in Munich, the city in which the Busby Babes died.

Manchester United's victory was a triumph for Alex Ferguson's tactical awareness and his players' ability to learn from their earlier European misadventures. While it was the style of their victory which caught the eye, their defensive concentration was equally impressive and just as crucial. After an early

In such an important game a great record, it has to be one of the best performances since came here. Alex Ferguson. It was a lot better than we dreamed of. Doing Doubles, winning championships and cups and having good runs in Europe is what every chairman

It was like the 1960s all over again. The players were magnificent in the way they approached the match and the fans went wilder and wilder with rery goal. The whole of Europé will be frightened to death. It will take a miracle for them not to go through now. Paddy Crerand, midfield schemer in the great side of the 60s.

is the one thing that will always be shoved down our throats. Even when we win the domestic league, we're told we're not true worthy champions because we've not done it in Europe. The ire to put that right burns within all of us. Then we want to win the world championship that's the desire you have to have to succeed at the high-

Wednesday was a good per-formance, but it's only half the loaf for us so we're not getting carried away. Andy Cole. We will try to do our best to give United a proper game in the home leg. We hope to improve our football so that we'll be a better team in the future.

Antonio Oliveira, Porto coach.

est level. Gary Pallister.

completely. The match may come to be seen as a turning point for Ferguson's United, a

Alex Ferguson will have been particularly pleased at the way his team kept going. He con-tinually complains that they struggle to kill off teams and, at half-time, one wondered if they could retain the tempo, concentration and passion

The only blot was a silly and out-of-character booking for De-nis Irwin, for kicking the ball away. United still have the best disciplinary record of the eight remaining sides. Though suffering seven bookings - Irwin, David Beckham, Eric Cantona, Roy Keane, Gary Neville, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Jordi Cruyff - they have yet to suffer a suspension. Porto, who will have three players suspended for the second leg have had 16 yellow cards and Atletico Madrid 20.

It is this type of discipline which is likely to gain England an extra Uefa Cup place as one of the top three countries in the European fair-play league. They are currently first. Incidentally, if United win the

cup and also finish in the first two of the domestic league, as seems likely, England will not be given a third place in the ex-panded Champions' League United's win will have given Glenn Hoddle mixed feelings.

While the national coach will have been delighted at the performances of the five English players, the victory increased the likelihood that they will not be available to him this summer. Ferguson's threat to withdraw his players from the French tournament to rest them may seem unnecessary to some. Af-



David May (centre) celebrates his goal for United on Wednesday with Eric Cantona

Photograph: David Ashdown

ter all, even if United win the European Cup they will only play 54 matches this season including the Charity Shield. No Premiership side, not even Wimbledon, will play 60 while Everton will play just 42. When Tottenham won the Uefa Cup in 1973 they played 70.

However, we come back to the speed of the modern game. "It has got faster and more physical," said Pallister, no stranger to overuse injury, "yet we still play 50 games a season. I don't know how long players have got to keep voicing their opinion

miership now to allow the league to be streamlined."

Dream on. Taking away two home games would cost United nearly £2m in gate receipts and spin-off income. For them

share value within half an hour of the Stock Exchange opening yesterday morning in the aftermath of Wednesday's win, but not many chubs have that luxury. They are no more than United are to surrender

att ba

Mixed emotions beneath the crooked spire



and 1950. On Sunday they play Wrexham in the sixth, a game that has an almost unassailable claim to be the biggest in their history. So how would Craig Thomas, editor of the club's fanzine, greet the team's manager, John Duncan, if they met in the street? Thomas would like to strangle him. Such an action would come as no great surprise to regular listeners to Praise or Grunible. Radio Sheffield's football phone-in.

There. Chesterfield fans have established a formidable reputation as world-class grumblers. Faults are found even in famous victories, and the run in the Cup has been accompanied by a stream of complaints about ticket allocation, indeed, if the enduring conundrum that is a football club's relationship with its fans is ever chronicled in a book, Chesterfield deserve a chapter of their own.

Not that Thomas, a history teacher at a local school, sees himself as a moaner. But, for nearly three years now, he has passionately taken Duncan to task for playing a defensive. long-hall game that has brought some success but precious little entertainment.

Writing in the excellent Crooked Spirite - a fanzine in the traditional mould, lots of densely packed type, a couple of photocopied pictures with captions on them, and not a sheaf of glossy paper in sight - when the Cup run got under way, he

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Chesterfield Foot-ball Club were founded in 1866. Third round of the FA Cup. They Until this season, Until this season, but the control of the FA Cup. They had done so just 11 times in the large in that debate, but at 67 the the furthest they previous 45 years, an achievement that would in itself make

Yet with the club now three rounds further, Thomas sees no reason to temper his views. "I am not going to be bought off by a Cup run," he said this week. "It's such a patronising attitude: we'll have a good Cup run, so everything's OK. Well, we have to watch them for the other 50 or so games a season, and the

Would he like to see Duncan sacked? "That's very difficult, because who's to say we'll get anyone better. There are so many lemons out there. It's not just Duncan It's the board that would decide and we have no faith in them."

Tell Thomas that Chesterfield, who are 11th in the Second Division. have the third best defensive record in the League, and he counters by pointing out that they are the third lowest scorers in the Nationwide.

Nor is he appeased by the second-half performance which disposed of Nottingham Forest in the fifth round, and impressed a watching nation on Match of the Day. "We kept the hall. If we could play like that every week there wouldn't be an

Stuart Basson, Thomas predecessor in the editor's chair, shares his opinion, but both acknowledge that there are plenty who take the contrary view in a controversy - at times

AROUND THE RESORTS

SWITZERLAND

UNITED STATES

Mick Sargerson has yet to engage in that debate, but at 67 the retired engineer represents the case for Duncan's defence. "I don't thìnk some give John Duncan the credit he deserves. The team hasn't been given enough credit for being intelligent and good enough to play according to the tactics that the

manager decides." he said. Sargerson, who has followed the team since the 1930s, was at Bolton when the First Division leaders were beaten 3-2 in the fourth round. "I have never been so proud of the Chesterfield team as I was that night at

Cup fever is a strange mala-



dy, though. On a bright spring day this week there were few overt signs that the local foothall club were approaching the biggest game in their history.

The ribbons in the butcher's window, so beloved by television producers, were conspicuous by their absence, as were youngsters wearing Town shirts in the busy Market Square long after the name was caused a certain amount of not so sure. Gates are around

dropped from their official title). Yet, in conversation, it does seem to be the talk of north Derbyshire. There is a special edition of the local pa-

per, the team have produced a

tickets has prompted the club to bring in extra staff. The decision to move the game back to Sunday morning, (they are still known as "Town". at the request of the police, has

that it will only be televised live down, for instance, on the 12,000 or so that saw the Fourth in Wales (some of the ticketless Division championship won are planning a day trip to the

Come the big day, though. most of the Sunday leagues will kick off at nine, though disappointingly - the Solemn Mass at the Parish Church of St Mary and All Saints, whose crooked spire is Chesterfield's most notable landmark, goes ahead as normal at 11am.

To the question as to whether cup record and the demand for Chesterfield is a footballing town there was a mixed response. Thomas felt it was, and that in recent times he detected more interest from the children at school. Sargerson was

there are none - had an impact. In the club's bar Roy Pollard. himself an ex-miner, said many could no longer afford to go.
"Once upon a time it was five to 10 bob to get into a football match. Now, if a father goes with his son, it's the best part of 20 guid. The '84 strike decimated

that the closure of all the local

coal mines—once there were 27

this town. Everybody was penniless. It broke up marriages and broke up communities and af-fected the football club." As the team's unofficial his-

torian. Stuart Basson is able to lend Chesterfield's current success a little perspective. There was a brief golden period from the mid-30s to 1951, when as members of the old Second Division the likes of Newcastle, Manchester United and Spurs were regular visitors. But for the last 40 years the club have bounced between the Third and Fourth Divisions (or Second and Third in the post-Premier world) and, FA Cup aside, they must have set some sort. of record in the League Cup in all its guises, with a best-ever run to the fourth round in

The best Chesterfield player of all time, Basson reckons, was Herbert Munday, a regular goalscorer around the turn of the century. "Unquestionably, if he had played in the First Division he would have played for

The club's most flamboyant later."

dates back even further. By the time the goalkeeper Charlie Bunyan joined Chesterfield back in 1970. No one doubted in 1892, he had already famously conceded those 26 goals when playing for Hyde United against Preston.

nits in the surrounding area, now His fame did not end there. "He was always in trouble with the authorities when with us. He ran a pub where the fans used to congregate, and used to tell them what was really going

> The consensus this week was that, of the modern Chesterfield teams, the present side are better defensively but not as good overall as the Arthur Cox side which won the Anglo-Scottish Cup in 1981 (beating Rangers on the way), though better than the one whose 4-4 draw at Anfield hastened Graeme Sonness's de-

parture. Wrexham, who have a good record against Chesterfield in recent years, are feared far more than Forest, who had been beaten in a pre-season testimonial and were considered ripe for the taking. The absence. of Darren Carr and Kevin Davies, sent off in the brawl with Plymouth 13 days' ago, is bound to affect them - especially Davies, who is the club's most skilful player. He scored a hattrick at Bolton.

To have any chance, it looks as though John Duncan will have to inspire another rearguard action. If he does, however, Craig Thomas will not be complaining. The Cup is different," he said. "I don't care how we win in the Cup. We'll leave the cerebral stuff matil

more Watergate that Saltergate Dancing off the streets: FA Cup fever has been hard to find in Chesterfield town centre Photograph: David Ashdown

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Russia

The Black Sea town of Sochi, once a favourite resort with the Soviet Union's communist élite. is facing a footballing invasion when the 1997 Russian League eason opens next week.

No fewer than eight clubs rave been ordered to play their first two home games on neutral grounds after failing to install undersoil heating, as the Russian authorities try to elimfrozen pitches.

weekend of the season: Sochi's a club official, said. own club, Zhemchuzhina, host the champions, Spartak Moscow, and Rotor Volgograd play Chemomorets Novorossiisk on Moscow at Krasnodar. Rotor Volgograd are most



displeased. "The whole city has inate postponements due to waited all through a long winter to see Rotor play and this Sochi's Central stadium decision is not in the interests stages four matches on the first of football," Alexander Pavlov,

Albania

Two Albanian World Cup qual 16 March. The following day ifying matches will be moved: Dynamo-Gazovik Tyomen from the troubled Balkan counmeet Rostselmash Rostov and try and played in neutral coun-Fakel Voronezh play Zenit St tries, Fifa ruled yesterday. Petersburg Another club Shin- Albania's 29 March home nik Yaroslavi from the northern game against Ukraine and the Volga, will play their first 2 April game against Germany "home" game against Torpedo will be staged at venues to be

announced today.

Rupert Metcalf

FA to probe Altrincham trouble

RUPERT METCALF

Non-League notebook

The Football Association is to hold an inquiry next Wednesday into the disorder that marred last weekend's FA Umbro Trophy tie between Altrincham and Bishop Auckland. The match was suspended for 24 minutes by the referee after away supporters allegedly attacked police, and eight fans were arrested.

Bishop Auckland's president. Brian Newton, apologised for the conduct of his club's fans vesterday. "The club wishes to place on record it totally deplores the actions of a minority of people at the game whose actions are a total discredit to football," he said.

It has also emerged that a bizarre fracas involving players took place after the game. Two years ago Bishop Auckland were taken to court by a Macclesfield Town player, George Shepherd, who had had his leg

broken playing against the Bish-ops. Without insurance, the County Durham club faced bankruptcy, so they launched a fund-raising campaign, of which the highlight was a friendly against Manchester United They raised £30,000, which paid for an out-of-court settlement.

Fit again, Shepherd now plays for Altrincham, and last Saturday was the first time he had faced the Bishops since his mjury. He gave away the penalwhich led to the only goal of the game, which Bishop Auckland won despite having two men sent off.

After the match, Shepherd apparently came to blows with a Bishops player, George Adams, in the club car park Both sides are blaming each other. Altrincham's chairman, Gerry Berman, has reportedly claimed that Shepherd was assaulted after leaving the Moss

Lane chibhouse. The Bishop Auckland line is that Shepherd started the fight A30 roadworks in Devon.

by striking the first blow. "An Altrancham player ran up from behind one of our players and punched him in the face, bust-ing his nose and lip," Tony Lee, their manager, said: An FA official who witnessed

the disturbance was apparently knocked to the ground as the players came to blows - his contribution to Wednesday's inquiry will be aintiously awaited by both clubs.

Woking are using radar technology to probe their pitch at Kingfield starthum, after Thes-day's GM Vanchall Conference game against Hayes was aban-doned in the first half following the discovery of a two-foot hole

in the playing surface.

The brouble has been blamed on the collapse of an underground drainage system, so Woking are resorting to the same soil-probing radar system used by police to track the progress of the environmental campaigners who dug tunnels under the

هكذا من الأصل

Great talents ready to run for their money

Mike Rowbottom. in Paris, expects some high class athletics at the world indoor championships which start tonight

Paris in the spring sounds an attractive enough proposition for most people, but for today's top. international athlete a little more is required to make the visit worthwhile.

Two years ago, the charms of Barcelona proved insufficient to lure more than a handful of

cided that getting absolutely right for the outdoor season was their priority on such an occasion now have the inducement of prize-money. Every individual winner stands to make \$50,000 (£31,500), while victorious relay teams share out \$60,000. For more ambitions souls, the stakes were upped at the end of last month with the announcement that anvone breaking a world record would

earn a further \$50,000. That prospect is likely to be of particular interest to Haile Gebrselassie, who may well surpass his own 3,000 metre him to run in last summer's mark of 7min 30.72sec given the Olympics. He gained a measure strength of the field around him. The line-up is due to include the world 3,000m steeplechase champion, Moses Kiptanui, the 1992 Olympic 5,000m champion, Dieter Baumann, and Salah Hissou of Morocco, who indicated last season that he might yet provide a serious challenge to the Ethiopian's supremacy from 3,000-10,000m.

leading performers to the world indoor championships. That poor showing prompted the Inprompted the in-ternational Amateur Athletic Federation to perform a hasty salvage operation before this year's championships, which start in the French capital today. Athletes who might have de-

> a further impact. passing interest in the record bonus include Wilson Kipketer, the Kenyan-born 800m runner whose assumption of Danish nationality came too late to allow

of consolation soon afterwards by running the third fastest 800m ever - 1:41.83 - a mark Britain's world record holder Seb Coe have bettered. That Paul Ereng, 1:44.84. is at risk.

This 22-year-old Moroccan who has trained

with his famous fellow countryman, Said Aoui-

ta, has confirmed his huge talent this year

with two world indoor records - 3min 31.18sec for 1500m and 3:48.45 for the

mile. El Guerrouj, whose hopes of defeating Noureddine Morceli in the Olympic 1500m

final disappeared when he tripped and fell,

has recovered from injury and is ready to make

Emma George, the Australian pole vaulter who has raised her. There are high hopes, too, for



The 38-year-old US athlete, who captured the headlines as a 14-year-old when she ran for her country against the Soviet Union in 1973, returned to top level action last weekend at the US thats where she recorded 4:03.08, the fastest time in the world for seven years. Her targets in Paris: a sub-4min run and an



The Olympic 10,000m champion has shown extraordinary range indoors this year, breaking the world 5,000m record (12:59.04), running 7:31,27 for 3,000 and 3:32,39 for 1500. That versatility should see the phenomenal Ethiopian through a highly competitive event in Paris.



The 23-year-old Australian, once an acrobat in a children's circus troupe named The Flying Fruit Flies, has directed her natural agility towards an event which makes its debut in major championships this weekend. George, who has the world indoor record of 4.40m, has been in outstanding form outdoors recently, improving her world record from 4.45 to 4.50 to 4.55 in a matter of



After the Kenyan-born runner's frustration of not being able to run the Olympics because his Danish nationality had not been fully established, he gained a measure of consolation by running 1:41.83 at the end of the season, the third-fastest ever recorded. He is said to be saving himself for a big performance in Paris and Paul Ereng's world record of 1:44.84, set in 1989, appears well within Kipketer's capacity.

only Joschim Cruz of Brazil and alistic target. The main expeckind of ability means that the 1989 world indoor record of

cent weeks, is another who looks. Grant - European indoor chamcapable of setting a new mark although she would only win half the standard record bonus because this is the first time the women's event has been included in a world championship.

World records are not a prebut medals of every hue are a retation of gold rests with Jamie Baulch, who has been invincible on the boards this season, lowering the 12-year-old British and Commonwealth 400m record to 45.39sec in the process.

pion in Paris three years ago and always capable of rising to the big occasion - and Steve Smith, the Olympic bronze medallist, for whom the same is true.

The prospects of a medal in the 60m for Jason Livingston, occupation for Britain's team, back in the British team after returning from a four-year doping ban, improved yesterday with the news that Ato Boldon, the double Olympic bronze medallist in the sprints, had been forced to drop his plans of running the shorter distance as well as the 200m because the schedule did not allow it. "It's Others with more than a outdoor world record twice in re- the high jump pair of Dalton great news for me," Livingston

said. "I feel confident and I'm very proud to be back and running for Britain again."

Livingston was well beaten by Boldon in Birmingham two weeks ago, where he admitted that he was "scared to death" as he lined up in his blocks along-side the Trinidad & Tobago athlete. But Livingston was buoyant yesterday. "I'm a championship runner and when there is something like a gold medal on the line I'm planning to pull it out." Boldon's mood contrasted sharply. "I feel cheated out of

the chance to double up," he said. "The championships are over three days but instead of self to make the top three in an if he does not find top form. The

a sensible spread. I would have to run five races on the first day. All three rounds of the 60 are tomorrow and after the final I would have to go back and run the semi-final of the 200. Perhaps I should have done a Michael Johnson and told them to change it for me," he added. referring to the way the Olympic 200 and 400m cham-

a double in Atlanta last summer. While the men's 400m looks like yielding a medal for Britain, the women's event could also prove profitable, although Phylis Smith will have to surpass her-

pion arranged his challenge for

event likely to be dominated by the German runner Grit Breuer. The British captain, Sally Gunnell, also runs the 400m, but her most realistic medal chance is likely to be in the relay. The men's 400 relay team also look capable of winning a medal, perhaps the title itself.

While Gunnell works towards a summer return to hurdling, Colin Jackson - like her. a world champion in 1993 - is seeking to rediscover his best form after winter training free of injury. As Baulch's coach, Jackson is likely to have something to celebrate in Paris even

withdrawal through injury of America's Olympic and world high hurdles champion, Allen Johnson, has clearly increased his chances, but Anier Garcia of Cuba has had the beating of the Welshman in recent races.

A change of heart by the selectors has provided Britain with another potential champion and likely medallist in Ashia Hansen. The Birmingham-based athlete. who has twice beaten the current world No 1 triple-jumper this season, was left out of the team for missing the trials. But she was allowed back in on appeal after claiming she had not received official notice of her obligation.

Catt back on the prowl

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

Sod's law dictates that selection in Cardiff, tinkering with every section of his side except the one that is most obviously failing to

click: half-back. Rowell did not feel the need to expand his options at scrumhalf because Austin Healey, a raw natural talent who has made such an impact at Leicester this season, is already in pole position for a full international debut at the Arms Park, if Healey gets his chance when the Tony Diprose and Neil Back final line-up is announced on Tuesday Andy Gomarsall will simply drop down to fill the gap on the replacements' bench.

The situation at stand-off is very different, however, Paul Grayson, the Northampton goalkicker whose game showed renewed signs of vulnerability when the French applied serious pressure during the second half of last Saturday's Five Nations match at Twickenham. is a doubtful starter against the Weish because of a torn mus-

depressingly little room to room. Rowley pulled out this manouevre. Indeed, he has de- week after fracturing his left wrist cided against reinforcing the while playing for Pontypridd. outside-half presence in his Meanwhile, England whittled outside-half presence in his squad, mainly because no one down their World Cup Sevens

ready to challenge for further honours. That leaves Rowell with Mike Catt and an uncom-Grayson fails to recover, the enigmatic Bath utility back will be back in the hot seat at a ground where England have had their fingers burned more often than anywhere else.

Although four forwards -John Mallett, Garath Archer, have been whistled up, none can expect to taste action in Cardiff; Back, the Leicester open-side flanker, has the best chance, thanks to Richard Hill's continuing ankle problems. The other newcomers are Will Greenwood. the Tigers centre, and Adedavo Adebayo, the Bath left-wing.

The Welsh, whose injury problems are considerably more acute, have named a 26-strong squad featuring three locks -Craig Quinnell, Mike Voyle and Paul Arnold - who all have lecle in his hip and that mild gitimate hopes of replacing calamity has left Rowell with Mark Rowley in the engine

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Lacester Riders 97 Nescastle Eagles 110; London Towers 94 Crystal Palace 61.

alternatives always exist in the is kicking down the door. squad to 12 in preparation for very areas in which they are least Alex King, of Wasps, had the tournament in Hong Kong required. Jack Rowell, the England coach, yesterday named a squad of 27 for next weekend's Triple Crown match with Wales troubles of his own in the A international with France a week ago while Gloucester's Mark her, Chris Sheasby, Dave Scully, Nick Beal and Adebayo were in the victorious 1993 title-winning side, but one or more may lose out when Anfortable feeling of dejd vue, if drew Harriman, the team manager, names his final 10 on Sunday week.

SHIDLAY WEEK.

ENGLAND PREI MINARY SQUAD & Wales, Cardiff, 15 Marchy, Backer T Shiepson (Newcastle), J Steightholme (Bath), W Carding (Faireques), P. de Ginsville (Bath), T Underwood (Newcastle), P. Grayson (Northernton), A Generated (Waspa), J Guscott (Bath), M Catt (Bath), W Greenwood (Leicester), A Adebayo (Bath), W Greenwood (Leicester), Forwarder G Rowentre (Leicester), M Regan (Bristo), J Lonard (Hartquans), M Johnson (Leicester), S Shaw (Bristo), L Dallagfio (Waspa), T Robber (Northampton), R Adil (Sarocens), D Sarforth (Leicester), P Greening (Glouester), B Clarke (Pormond, A Diprote (Sarozens), Grather (Newcastle), J Righlatt (Bath), N Back (Leicester), Team to be armounced on Tuesday 11 March.

March.
WALES-SQUAD (v England, Cardiff 15 March.
1.5): Backler. N Jernidos. (Portyprodd), I. Extens(Lisnelli), & Thomase (Bridgend), W Proctor
(Lisnelli), & Bathemen (Ruthmord), N Davies.
(Lenelli), & Gibbs. (Swerses), J. Davies.
(Lenelli), R Howley (Cardiff), P John [Pontypridd). Ponishries: C Loader (Swenses), J. Orong (Cardiff), L Mussice (Cardiff), J Davies.
(Neam), S John (Lisnelli), J Humphreys.
(Cardiff. capt), & Jewitins. (Swenses), G.
Lisnelli, M Vegia (Lisnelli), P Arnold (Swenses), S.
Williams (Neath), S Quinnell (Richmond), H
Taylor (Cardiff), D Nichtobsh (Portypridd), C.
Cobarvis (Cardiff), D Nichtobsh (Portypridd), C.
Cobarvis (Cardiff), D

Sevens squad, Digest

Saunders and Gilpin back for Varsity test

Hockey BILL COLWILL

With no Women's National League programme this week-end, the 96th Varsity Match at the exasperatingly slow, fea-Cambridge captures the attention with Cambridge looking to repeat their 3-0 victory of last

year at Oxford. The good news for Cambridge is that their captain, Ruth Gilpin, is back after a two months long ankle injury. However, their first choice goalkeeper, Katy Roberts, is training with England Under-21, Caroline Wright taking over in goal. Oxford's president, Josie Saunders, also back after a broken an-

announced yesterday. At Milton Keynes, Bromsgrove School won the British Aerospace National Schools Under-18 title, winning their last game 6-0 against Tadcaster Grammar School with Fiona Gibson scoring three times. The title was effectively decided earlier when Bromsgrove beat runners-up Cheltenham 3-0.

kle, is in the Dark Blues squad

Hard work for W Indies

ball from Abey Kuruvilla. Forty Indian bowlers of his ilk come

minutes into the second session to learn quickly, working on the

the West Indies had advanced similarly unsympathetic sur-

TONY COZIER

reports from Kingston, Jamaica West Indies 69-1

tureless pitch meant that it might just as well have been Kanpur or Bangalore.

The West Indies batted yesterday after Courtney Walsh won the toss but, after a flourishing start by the openers Sherwin Campbell and Stuart Williams that raised 41 off the first nine overs, found timing and runs difficult to come by against accurate Indian bowling on the

opening day of the first Test. slightly above medium pace

had his off stump plucked out

bowler, Javagal Srinath, out of the match and possibly the entire series. His place with the new ball was taken by Kuruvilla, a tall, slim bowler of

has forced their premier fast

but Campbell out for 40.

The next 19 overs to lunch yielded only 28 after Williams at the age of 28.

He immediately settled in to

by a cleverly disguised slower the kind of length and line that Sussex statement today

Sussex are to make a statement—son for the mass exodus of too today amid reports that chairman Alan Caffyn is on the verge of resigning. The county's secretary, Nigel Bett, would neither confirm nor deny that Caffyn has bowed to the intense criticism of his handling of the county's crisis.

Caffyn's seven-year reign has come under fierce scrutiny since he said he believed the main rea-

players from Hove was the "unpopularity" of the former captain Alan Wells. This sparked a furious response from Wells, now with Kent, while Martin Speight also criticised Caffyn after joining Durham last week and urged

members to "rise up" and help

to 96 for 2 with Shivnarine faces in their country. His first Chanderpaul unbeaten on 26 eight overs cost hun just 10 runs for the deserved return of When the former Durham Williams' wicket. The more highly rated and

opener attempted to force the pace he edged a catch to the experienced Venkutesh Prasad wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia, twice found the probing edge cutting at the left-arm spinner of Campbell's bat, but there was not sufficient life in the pitch for the ball to carry to the The Indian bowling has been appreciably diminished slips and instead boundaries resulted. by the shoulder injury that

Williams' exit and the placidity of the pitch seemed an idcal cue for Brian Lara but instead Chanderpaul emerged. He has struggled for touch since his return from Australia last month and found it difficult to get the ball away; so did Campbell, whose form has been equally suspect of late.

First day: West Indies wan toss

Total (for 1)

Fall: 1.41.
To bat: B C Lara, C L Hooper, R | C Holder, 1/R Murray, I R Bishop, F A Rose, C E L Ambrose, "C A Walsh.
Bowfing: Prasad IO-2-48-0 (hb2): huruvilla 8-3-10-1: humble 8-2-10-0; Joshi 2-2-0-0. INDIA: VV S Larman, N S Sidhu, R S Dravd. S R Tendulker, S Gangaly, M Azhanudon, †N R Monga, A Kumble, S Joshi, A Kumwita, B A V Prased.

Umphres 5 Bucknor (Mi and M Kachen (Eng). TV reptay Umphre: J Gayle (WI). Match Referee: P van der Merwe (SA).

Blakeley back in business for Salford

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

The rival coaches in tomorrow's Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final are adopting different approaches to their two talent-

Salford's Andy Gregory has no qualms over bringing back Steve Blakeley in place of lan Watson for his first match following a groin operation - or over making him captain.

"I don't know who came up with that expression about not changing a winning side." Gregory said. "Steve is a class player and he has that extra yard of

His Warrington counterpart. John Dorahy, is treading cautiously in reintegrating the transfer-listed Great Britain stand-off, lestyn Harris, into his side. Harris is again a substitute for the Salford game. "We have a fairly settled team and, whilst lestyn will improve with every game, he still has some im-

proving to do before he is ready for a full game." Dorahy said. The St Helens forward Derek McVey will have a cast removed from a hairline crack in his wrist today and a decision will then be made on his fitness to face Keighley on Sunday.

(Bel) 7-6 6-2; R Furlan (ft) bi O Delafre (Fr) 7-5 7-6.

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON CLASSIC, (Scottsa-

Athletics

Li McCugan will attempt a record-break-ing fourth actory in this year's BUPA Great North Pari on 14 September, McColgan, is in training for need month's Flora Len-don Manager athletics chiefs are 10 tash for a out in compulsory doping bans from four to two years. The rules have already hear abandoned in Germany be-already hear abandoned in Germany be-

STRACHAN WORLD MATCH PLAY CHAMPI-ONISHIP (Nerwich) Fourth round: R Crap-men Englick Saltzan (Ind) 4-2, N Pasel (Ind) for Ricces (Englick) Folken (Aus) for Cise-for (New 4-2; Sagrassi Ind) bit A Strandise (Ind) 4-1, C Shutt (Englist D Josto (Ind) 4-2. already been abandoned in Germany be-Basketball

The Burningham coach, Nick Nurse, is the Budweiser coach of the month atthe Bullets went unbeaten in Febine monthly players' award went

Wednesday's results PURPOSAN CUP Quarter-break first has And Planter Scholard Radio 1 (Europe Scholard Radio 1 (Europe Scholard Radio 1 (Europe Scholard Radio 2 (Europe Scholard Radio 3) (Europe Scholard Radio 5) (Europe 1 (Europe Scholard Radio 2) (Europe 1 (Europe Scholard Radio 2) (Europe Radio 2) (Europe 1 (Europe Scholard Radio 2) (Europe 1 (Europe Scholard Radio 2) (Europe 1 (Europe Scholard Radio 2) (Europe Radio 2) (Europe

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53) Novembr. 1 (Seen Sc.)
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FA LIMBRO TREPUT Third-round replies St. Local de Sucressi O Colonia Sa. O USG.

21-13: 4 STAR (summer) in Coperans (21-14; C Ashby (Easthourne) by J Searle (Donchester) 21-14; K Strutt (Egram) by E Logan (Mansfield, North Londer) 21-9; J Reddem (Rustiden) bi J Baker (South Foress) 21-19; E Bessel) (Redwill by Webb (Deangste Rodgs) 21-18; K Hawes (Crescell) by A Green (So.), Execut 21-11; Roylander (North Mastham) by A McPherson (Augn Valley) 21-8.

SCHEMPT INHECT LEARNE Premier Division:
Care C-Comportant, S. Mengersheid 3. Sections
O. Westland O. Odd Down 1.
UNGET SISSEX COUNTY LEARNE First Division: IM-person to largers Sports 0. Postponate
Aurors's Seizer, John O'Neas Langus Cop fourth
council Scatters Unit of Hessacks 1.
WHISTONE EAD KONT LEAGUE First Division:
Caretery, Only 2 Funess 1.
UNESTONE EAD KONT LEAGUE First Division: Controlly, Only 2 Funess 1.
UNESTONE EAD KONT LEAGUE First Division: Sporting Unit 4 Menters Bloodstore 1.
FORDER TUNIED COUNTIES LEAGUE Fremier Division: Sporting Unit 4 Menters Bloodstore 1.
FORDER Division: Sporting Unit 4 Menters Bloodstore 1.
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Division Endorme 2 Exercised Division CopDivision Halzer 0 Amolé John 2.
FORDER WEST COLUMNES LAST LEAGUE Free Ovision: Person Cables 1 Holder Ods Boys O:
Rosseponde Unit 3 Autorian Columna 1.
FUNISDNI EASTERN LEAGUE Freezier Division:
FUNISDNI EASTERN LEAGUE Promier Division:
FUNISDNI EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division:

EMISTON EASTERN LEAGUE Promier Division:

PRINCIPLE OF STREET Poststuch v Pottsmouth RN.
Pottsmat Usbate Premise Disision: Dichem
4 Inchem 5 17 Solytorage Cettici. First Dission: Executed 4 Presson 2: Hoddenfield 2
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Geleitora Streasting 0 Candra 1. Postsponed
Guideline Streasting 0 Candra 1. Postsponed
Guideline Streasting 0 Candra 1. Postsponed
Guideline Bury 4 Seafteraugh 0 Candra 2 De1 year 2 Westel 0 Southtone 0.

Bonding
Chris Ethank has said he would consider a £350,000 offer to face British and Eu-

a £360,000 offer to face British and European light-heavyweigh; title holder
Crawford Ashley neat month. The former
World Boxing Organisation super-middiesesight champion is in Dubai preparting for his second comeback fight on 27
March. Nesterday the Yorkshire fighter
challenged Eubark to a double atle showdown or, alternatively, to meet for the
vecant World Boxing Union title.
ABA NATIONAL FINALS (National Indoor Arama, Birahaghesa): Ligha-websaweight: R Haton (Sale, West) by M-Hall (Datangson) ps.
Webtor-edget F Baret (Sogar) by Tim Smith
(Handsubrih) ps. Light-headdleweight: C
Bessey Wrigh by M-Ines (Garring ps. Middiesesight: F Baret (Sogar) by Tim Smith
(Handsubrih) ps. Light-headdleweight: C
Bessey Wrigh by M-Ines (Garring ps. Middiesesight: Light-heavyweight: Proges (KanHill by M Kernes (St Michaels) disp, Hannyweight: B Stevens (Prevood Star) by T Oakley (Leigh Park) ps. Super-headyweight A
Hansan (Repton) bt N Kerdall (Apolio) as 1st.

Football

WOMEN'S ALL ENGLAND ENDOOR CHAM-MONSKIPS SINGLE, first round: D Sear-Let, TELLEY but SR Endman (Ving George Field) 21-13: N Sruse (Tournaby) by L Rose (Copetans) 21-14; C Ashby Lesshoume) by J Searle (Dorchester) 21-14; K Sputt. Avon assumble: Countrivinon Fest District.
Sourcemouth O Milhell 2: Charlon 1 Lutin 11 to-sect 0 Yosterham C; Sention 2 Bristol City 1. League Carp Avancel 1 Norwach 3; Oxford Uro 2 Bristol Roses 0.

FA YOUTH CUP FREE round; Leeds Und O Tran-ment Rount O. SPINISH LENGUE: Rayo Valecano 2 (Kimo 49. Guiterne 56) Seville O. TODAY'S FIXTURES Football

FOOTBRIE
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
FIRST DAYSION
Bernalby v Sheffleid Utd (7.45)
TRAND DAYSION
Cambridge Und v Colchester (7.45)
JEWSON WESSER LEAGUE: Estileigh v
Gespor Borough (7.30)
HARP LEAGUE OF IRELAND CUP
Quarter-Bonle: Boherniers v St Periot's Albletic (7.30); Waterford v Drogheid (7.45).

Rugby League PREENDLY: Castleford v Wigen (7.30). Other Sports burris: UK Machplay tournament (Doncaster). BOWLS: English Women's National Indoor Championship (York).

SPORTING DIGEST Cricket Notinghamshire have elected Ken Taylor president. As manager, Taylor guided the county to championship triumphs in 1981 and 1987, the NatWest Trophy in 1987 and the Benson and Hedges Cup in 1989.

Football
Cambridge desender Jody Craddock, has rejected a £300,000 move to Preston. The 21-year-old centre-back is refusing to sign a new contract with Cambridge but said: "I don't think going to Preston is the best move for me." Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vietre, who made his tull French international debut last week, is back in the under-21 team for the European Championship group three match against Switzerland in Pau next Wednesday. Winger Thierry Henry is also in the squad. Huddersfield player Simon Collins yesterday joined Second Division Plymouth for £30,000. The 23-year-old is Mick Jones' first signing as Plymouth canetalver manager.

caretaker manager. Frank Brennan, defender in Newcestle United's famous post-war team, has died, aged 72. The Glasgow-born cen-

Golff
Britain's Lee Westwood set a course record with an eight-under-par 64 on the opening dey of the Malaysian Open yesterday. Westwood had eight birdies and no dropped shots. David A Russell, noping his battle against chest cancer has been won, holed in one at the 16th in the opening round of the Moroccan Open in Agadir. It helped him to a three-underpar 69, just two shots off the lead. Russell trails Australian leader Stephen Allen and is just one shot adritt of the American Bob May, South Africa's Climon Whitelew and Soot Andrew Coltart. MALAYSIAN OPEN (Morate Lussyon) First round 64 (Liwshood Eng. et al., Climon Whitelew and Soot Andrew Coltart. MALAYSIAN OPEN (Morate Lussyon) First round 64 (Liwshood Eng. et al., Soon Aus), Da Howes (Eng.) Pluckeriey (In.), Moreoccan Open (Agadir) First Round 67 S Allan (Aus), et a May US), Actuant (Soo), C Whitelew, (SA); 89 Wayne Westner

Snooker

ISA), C. Rocce (et.), P. Hammagoon (Iri), D. Hospital (Sp), J. Phiero (Sp), A. Leboux, (Fr), J. Heeggman (Swe), D. A. Russell (Eng).

**NORY COAST OPEN (First roomed) 88 0 Edmond (Fr); 87 J Berendt (Arg., M. Besse (Nory C), I. N'Guessan (Nory C); 88 F Cas (Sp), M. Hazelden (Eng), B. Karagho (S. Lankal); 69 L. James (Eng). E. Kortisal (Ghana), M. Peter (Aut), N. Jostomides (Fr), S. Wasson (Eng); 70 C. Williams (Eng.), R. Goroster (Ang.), V. Brace Mensio (Chana), J. Reims (Niger), R. Eyraud (Fr), K. Storegaard (Den), J. Aley (Swe).

Hanal Coast.

MEN'S WORLD CUP QUALIFER (Nuele Lumpur) Third Day, Pool A: Potend 0 Span 1; South Africa 2 Switzerland 2; Canada 1 Malaysia 4. Pool B: Argentina 3 Belgium 1.

ice Hockey NHL: Hardord 2 Calgary 0; Buffalo 4 Pitishurgh 2: Phoenix 3 Flondia 0; Colorado 7 Montreal 3; New Jersey 3 Philadelphia 1; Toronto 4 De-troll 4 (01); Calles 3 St. Lous 2; Vancouver 1 Chicago 1 (01); Ansheim 4 Ottawa 1.

SUPERLEAGUE play-offs group A: Newcestle Course 3 Manchester Storm Q. Rugby League The St George chairman, Warren Lock-The St George charman, waren Lock-wood, was yespenday elected to char-man of the New South Wales Rugby Leegue. The Queensland rugby league boss John McDonald has been ap-pointed interim chairman and the po-sition will be discussed on 8 April.

Rugby Union Regby Union

ENGLAND SECIND PREIMPARY SQUAD
(for World Cap Sevena), Bacies: A Adobayo
(Bath), N Beat (formampant), M Catt
(Bath), W Greenwood (Lecoster), A Heatley
Lecoster), S Roiser (Masps), D Staty (Makefield), J Steightholme (Beth), Forwards: N
Back (Lecester), L Deltaglio (Wasps, 130t),
7 Rodber (Normampant), C Sheestly (Masps),
Reserves: on standby: N Greenstock
(Wasps), R Hill (Sarocers), R Jenkins (Harlequate).

Snooker impresario Barry Hearn has of-fered to mediate in the row between rival factions within the sport about its future. The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, the game's governing body, has come under fire from world No 1 Stephen Hendry's manag-

er, Ian Doyle.
John Higgins has narrowed the gap on world No 1 Stephen Hendry after his success in the European Open. Hendry lost in the quarter-finals to James

CARLISLE

2, buts (goodsgan 6-1; 3. Pherisaguas 14 1, 12 rep. 2-1 fav Parade Racer (5th). rik. 7., (Mrs M Raveley, Saltburn). Toker £14.00; £3.30, £1.70, £3.00. Dual Forecast. £59.90. Computer Straight Forecast: £67,23. Thoast: £850.09, Tho: £143,50. Non Runner: Peb-De Beech. 2.30: 1. CHILL WIND (M Fosser) 5-2: 2. Parish 2-1 Sar, 3. Grosse-N-Heather 5-1. 7 ran. ni., 14. (N Bycroft, Brandsby). Tote: £3.60: £1.60. £1.80. DF: £4.30. CSF:

27.55.
20.1 ARDRENA (A Dobbn) 4-1; 2 into 18.00.1 ARDRENA (A Dobbn) 4-1; 2 into 19.00.1 Arguer 33-1.15 ran. 11.6. IF Murphy, Middelharni, Tother 25.10: 25.0. £1.70. £5.80. DF: £8.00. CSF: £1.59, Titor £18.0.30 (good of £83.49 in Sandouri 3.45 today). NF: Larkenil. 3.30: 1. KEPMORTE-SPEED (Richard Quest) 7-4; 2. Solomon's Dancor 4-7 ray; 3. Nijway 33-1. 4 ran. 13, 12. (Mrs S Smith, Singley). Tother £2.70. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.97.
4.00: 1. FRALLELSEFALLS (I lardina; 8-1;

7-4 (ay, 2. Cellidh Boy 7-2; 3. Acajou ili 2-1. 4 ran. 1¼, 26. U Jefferson, Malton), Tota; £2.00, DF: £3.30. CSF: £7.22. £.00; 1. LINWOOD (A Dobbri) 11-10 fay;

bring about change.

TOWCESTER

2.20: 1. WINTER ROSE (K Hibbert) 10-1:
2. Ardient Love 11.-4 far, 3. Hamcock 6-1.
15 ran. 17. 7. Mass P Whitte, Lechuly, Tothe 11. 7. 10.
2. White Lechuly, Tothe 11. 7. 10.
2. St. 10. 2. 50. Dust Forecast: £18.70. Computer Straight Forecast: £15.59.
Tireast: £173.85. The: £43.00.
2.50: 1. HBM OF PRAISE (J OSDOTIE) 4-5 far, 2. Major Nova 20-1: 3. Bellydousgan 50-1. 12 ran. 17. 12. 10 Shewood, Upper Lambourn). Tothe: £2.20: £1.30. £2.00.
£8.60. Dust Forecast: £16.20. Computer Straight Forecast: £21.04. Tho: £56.70.
3.20: 1. TEAPLANTER (Mr B FORCA) 8-13 fav. 2. Fiddlern Pike 7-1; 3. Larriga Clitter 7-1. 7 ran. 3. dist. [Mss C Saunders, Northempton). Tothe: £1.70: £1.10. £1.80.
Dust Forecast: £3.90. Computer Straight Forecast: £2.48.
3.50: 1. NONVERTA QUEEN (J OSDOTIE) 5-4: 2. Lady High Sheriff 6-5 tar, 3. Kosheen 7-1. 9 ran. 5, 8. 10 Sherwood, Upper Lambourn). Tothe: £2.30; £1.00. £1.40. £1.60.
Dust Forecast: £1.70. Campurer Straigh Forecast: £2.89. Tho: £2.30. Non Further: Maylan Magic.
4.20: £1. CARLINGFORD (AKES (J Culio-2.00: 1. ARSURO AGAIN (P Niven) 11-1: Mrs Robinson 6-1; 3. Phermathing 14-

22.97.
4.00: 1. FALLELSEFAILS () Jardine; 8-1:
2. Exchanted Cottage 9-4 fay; 3. Pupper
Charlie 9-1: 13. run. 2, 5. fl. Lungo, Carruthersown). Totae 59.00; 22.50. £1.60.
£2.80. DF: £17.10. CSF; £23.79. Tincast: £157.87. Tno: £55.50. 4.30: 1. NORTHERN SQUIRE (E Calagnan)

5.00; 1. LINWOOD (A DODR) 11-10 RN; 2. Tom's River 2-1; 2. Side By Side 11-1, 12 ran. 9, 3. (G Richerit, Greystoke). Tota: 52.70; 51.10. £1.10, £3.50. DF: £2.70. CSF: £3.47. Tro: £5.10. Place 6: £132.82. Place 5: £25.21.

loss at the European Open relegates him

to fourth.
LATEST RANKINGS (GB unless stated): 1
S Hendry, 2 J Higgns. 3 J Parrott. 3 R O'Sullivan, 5 M J Watarns, 5 K Doheny, 7 P Endon, 8 N Bond, 9 T Drago (Marts). 10 A McMarus. Tennis

ROTTERDAM WORLD INDOOR MEN'S TOUR-NAMENT (Netherlands) Stagles, finst round: M Such (Ger) bt C Profine (Fri 6-3-3-6-6-1; G Jensew; Cycel bt F Saftror (Fr) 6-3-4. Se-and round: P Korda (Cz Rep) bt J van Herd

RACING RESULTS

TOWCESTER

FRANCIAN TEMPLETON CLASSIC, (Scottsa-die, Artzona) First round: S Bruguera (Spo) bt J Stotlenberg (Aus) 0-6 6-4 6-1 Second round: S Black (Jam bt S Stotle (Aus) 6-1 5-7-5. R Peneberg (US) bt H Gum (Aug) 2-6 6-1 6-2. J Golmand (Fra) bt A Medvedev (UF) 7-6 (B-6) 3-6 6-4. NUVEEN MASTERS OVER-35 CHAMPIONS (US) bt G Vias (Aug) 6-3 6-4. J Lloyd (GP) bt B Borg (Swe) 2-6 7-6 10-8: A Gomez (ECu) bt M Purcell (US) 6-7 7-6 11-9: Connors. bt M Purcell (US) 6-7 7-6 11-9: Connors. bt M Purcell (US) 6-7 5-5 (Gomez bt J Med-6-3 6-4.

WINCANTON

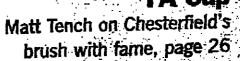
£14.70.

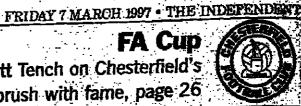
2.40; 1. FULL OF BOUNCE (T Descombe): 33-1; 2. Frazer Island 11-8 iar; 3. Trust Deed 33-1: 10 ran, 21. 3. . . (R Hodgest Total £23,80; £3,80; £1,40; £2,80 DF; £23,10 CSF; £74,06; Trus £238,60 part 40n, poor

3.40: 1. NORTHERN STARLIGHT (4.5 AV.

£333.70 (part won, peol of £376.00 to Sangram 3.45 foday).
Placepart £22.30, Quadport £11.50.
Place 6: £47.99 Place 5: £28-7.

£60.39. Tno: £27.00.
4.50: 1. WASSL STREET (N Wignerson)
6-4: 2. Heriequin Chorus 11-8 fav. 3. Simply 4-1. 4 ran. sin-ind, 18. ft Morgan, Meton Montray). Totar: £2.40. Dual Forecast: £2.40. CSF. £3.80.
Jackpot: £7.100.00 (part won, pool of £557.73 camed forward to Sandown today).
Places 6: £11.95. Place 6: £6.51.





Gascoigne set for new deal at Ibrox

Football

ALAN NIXON

Rangers have confirmed they are set to open talks with Paul Gascoigne about a new contract after speculation that the midfielder would return to England. Rangers' vice-chairman. Donald Findlay, said that negotiations will begin soon regarding a deal which would keep the 29-year-old at Ibrox.

Everton hope to complete the 15m transfer of Slaven Bilic today, leaving West Ham angry about the loss of their Croatian international centre-half.

Everton's chairman, Peter and Mauricio Solis have signed Johnson, offered Bilic a deal for Derby County. Wanchope, yesterday, exploiting an escape clause in his contract which said that he could move if an offer

Chelsea have approached Manchester City with a bid to sign Peter Beagrie. Ruud Gullit has approached City with the request to take the left-winger on loan for the rest of the season. Chelsea have also signed the former Manchester United and England full-back Paul Parker until the end of the sea-

The Costa Rican internationals Paulo Cesar Wanchope

Hughes, Rab Shannon, Gordon

Hunter, Shaun Dennis and

Dennis may make the Dun-

fermline match, while Chic

Charnley should shake off a

knock and Jamie McQuilken is

fit. The striker Barry Lavety, on

the way back after six months

out because of a virus, scored

in another comeback match on

Monday, but Duffy says it is too

early to include him in his first-

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

24 One unusual prank I no-ticed around capital of Ra-

25 Fruit left in mostly warm

oven (8) 26 Deeply involved in relief

work, embracing millions

DOWN

Space shot needing help,

we hear - exciting mission?

Wait to understand, having received edition of Bible (5)

Acquire fashionable girl

Struggling with a concept and not finding the bot-tom? (3. 2. 4, 5)

Malicious sprite's energy

going into causin lameness

with sex-appeal (7)

Andy Dow.

team plans.

Scottish League may stay the same

Reconstruction of the Bell's fixture against Dunfermline at Scottish League is looking increasingly unlikely following a meeting of the League's man-

agement committee yesterday. Scottish Cup exits. The committee decided at a recent meeting to back the First Division clubs proposal of after missing four games through suspension following a a three-division set-up of 16-12-12. But, although the matter is still on the agenda of the red card against Dundee United at Tannadice. His return is a lift for his manager. Jim League's annual meeting on 30 Duffy, who still has a number May. a number of Premier Diof players out injured, includvision clubs are known to be against the idea.

The League's secretary, Peter Donald, said: The debate continues to assess whether or not there would be a sufficient number of clubs to support the idea. The First Division clubs have been asked over the next week or two to assess the situation and report back."

Hibernian will be lifted by the return from suspension of their midfielder Pat McGinlay for tomorrow's Premier Division

ACROSS Sick, without question – that's understandable (4)

10 Seeing everything prepared for bridge (5.2 3.5)

11 Mistakeniy reports receiv-

ing gold antique reptile (9) 12 Crude Frenchman runs into

13 Dislike of French agents on

radio (7) 15 Metallic animal knocked

making a clattering (6) 17 Silent screen star working

trayal of poet (6) 19 You'll see the fins flapping in this type of material? (7)

to add to incomplete por-

20 Island in the blue, we hear

21 Result? 20-0 recalled the ul-

timate in discomfiture (9)

bounding bullet (8)

confusion (4)

No 3240. Friday 7 March

over £2.5m was made for him.

a striker, and midfielder Solis both signed three-year contracts and expect to be available for their debuts on 22 March.

Tony Yeboah has asked for a transfer from Leeds, although his manager George Graham insisted he has "no problems' with the Ghanaian striker. Graham said yesterday: "That is news to me. I know nothing about this and I don't know where these stories come from."

The League Managers' Association will take no action against Leicester's manager Martin O'Neill about remarks made in the club programme to-wards his Filbert Street successor, Mark McGhee, now in

charge of Wolves.
O'Neill had written that he hoped Leicester fans would forgive another of his successors, Villa's manager Brian Little - but he followed that by Easter Road. The match is a rewriting: "However, what you wish to do if and when Mark McGhee visits us with Wolverarranged game, with both sides having suffered early Tennents hampton Wanderers is at your own discretion." The LMA McGinlay is available again chief executive, John Barnwell, said: "We have spoken to Martin O'Neill and we are satisfied that nothing serious was intended by his comments."

Brighton's manager Steve Grift's efforts in hauling the club ing Graeme Donald, John towards safety have been re-warded with the Third Division Division manager of the month award for February.

Reading have parted company with the Bulgarian World Cup goalkeeper Borislav Mikhailov six months before his contract was due to end.

Newcastle, who have operated without a reserve side this season, will have four teams next term; the first XI, a reserve side, plus a team in the Northern Alliance and a junior XI.

7 Bound to be a little tight.

Guess it's no colder at night? (1.4.2.3.4)

of Saudi Arabia (9)

had moved fast (8)

18 Numbers on court case

speaking (5) 23 Shelf in hall I set up (4)

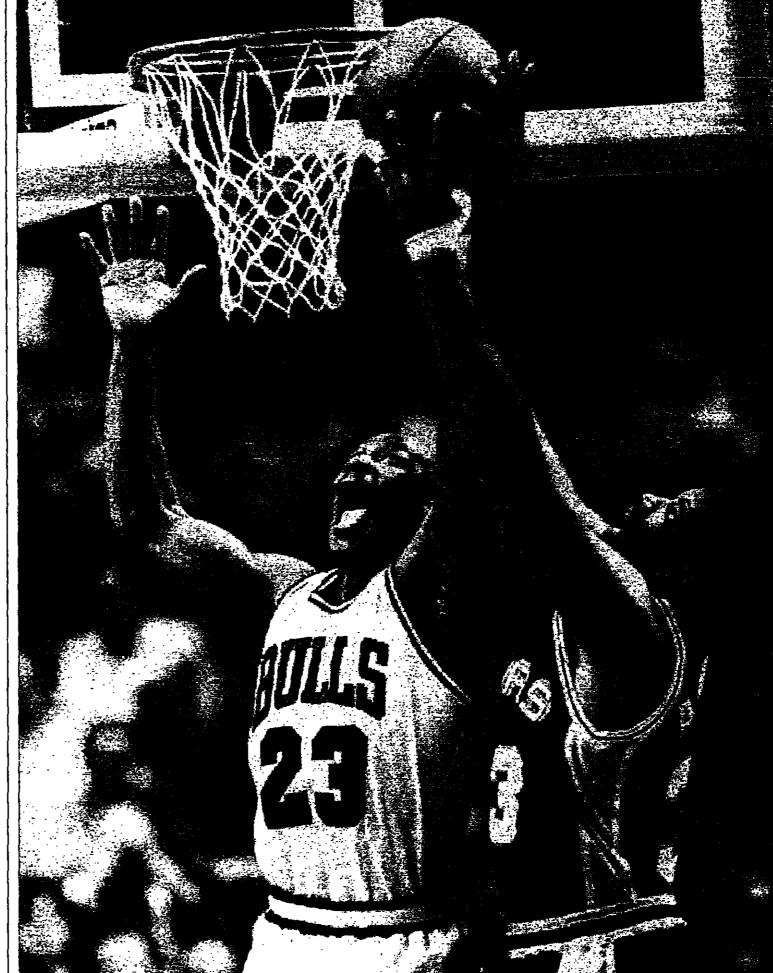
16 Soldiers involved in wager

needing a breather? (7)

Knowing about musical work (piano) supplied by disk? (6)

i.e. drunk (4)

rumpled? (6)



Michael Jordan, of the Chicago Bulls (left), battles with San Antonio Spurs' Greg Anderson during the playing without the suspended Dennis Rodman, won 111-69

Standing start for Hill

Motor Racing

Damon Hill would be especially displeased with anyone who suggested that he had hit rock bottom since leaving Williams. He is sensitive about being the butt of any jokes as he had nothing to sit upon in his build-up to the Australian Grand Prix. The world champion's specially designed seat for his new Arrows-Yamaha car did not appear on

schedule in Melbourne. Delirious, embraced by a Arrows technicians were Parisienne, having clothes faced with the prospect of having to build him a new one in 14 Henry's placed in unconcase the original failed to arrive. ventional kids' home in part

The seat, which is moulded to suit each individual driver "is one of the most important parts of the car," according to the Arrows technical director. Frank Dernie. "Damon cannot race without one, that's for sure," he added perceptively. 22 Independent's vague about nothing, in a manner of

Apparently, it usually takes about three hours to build a new seat, and as Dernie pointed out: The trouble is when you make a new one, you never,get it right first time." Three fittings is apparently the bottom line.

The 28-year-old German has set his sights on earning enough points during the early rounds The problem is the last thing Hill would have wanted as he prepared to launch the defence to stay in touch with the leadof his Formula One title.

ers in the hope of mounting a Hill, who signed for Arrows in a £4.5m deal after being ejected by Williams, saw his preseason testing hit by a series of technical problems and as he went into the opening event he was not expected to be among the front-runners this year.

Damon Hill is rated at 16-1 by William Hill to end the Formula One season without a single championship point. Hills make the champion 66-1 to re-tain his title, with Jacques VIIleneuve the 4-6 favourite.

Michael Schumacher, who won the world title twice when with Benetton, was not expecting to be absolutely flying around the street circuit in a Melbourne park either, predicting his Ferrari would make a slow start to the season. "We won't be able to win races in my view, not right from the beginning anyhow," he said.

that we will be competitive at certain times and I am hoping that we won't have lost too many points [by then]." Villeneuve has emerged as the driver to beat after Williams-Renault promoted

challenge later in the year.

"We should be able to get on

the podium in the first couple

of races," Schumacher said be-

fore embarking on the first of-

ficial practice session. "I am sure

erge as potential rivals.

him after dispensing with Hill for this season. Villeneuve, runner-up to Hill last year, said he hoped other drivers would also "I hope it's going to be head-

to-head with many more drivers than just Michael, because it's more fun," said Villeneuve, who was also second behind Hill in last year's Australian Grand Prix on his debut in Formula One.

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England players to bear Brearley in mind

Cricket

Mike Brearley, the former England captain, is preparing to put of players in the best frame of mind for their Ashes challenge

Brearley, now 54, practises as a psychoanalyst and is being seen as a vital part of England's preparations for the visit of the Australians this summer. He is being employed, on a casual basis, by the England and Wales Cricket Board, who are keen to use his professional skills and experience in cricket...

One of Brearley's tasks will be to help deal with players: personal problems that they may feel unable to discuss with the team management. Brearley yesterday confirmed he had been called in by the ECB but would not expand on his role.

trained as a psychologist during his career and taught philosophy at the University of California and Newcastle University
David Lloyd, the England I
coach confirmed that Breadey would become part of the setup for the Ashes series when he returned from New Zealand yesterday with the rest of the

"Mike is now a psychoanalyst by trade and if we feel he can be

of any assistance to us he will al-

ways be on hand," an ECB spokeswoman said "He is not be-

ing hired officially by us but he

is always happy for us to call or

him." Brearley, who was an ex-

cellent motivator of players dur-

ing his days as England captain,

Arriving at Heathrow Air-port, Lloyd said: "Mike won't help with preparations in terms of tactics for the games, but he shall have an involvement if players choose to see him by lping their mental game."

England start against Austrains with the first of three oneday internationals on 22 May.

Why do more people go back to Cyprus than anywhere else in the Med? GOÉS JUST ONCE

هكذا من الأصل